

Church conspiracy led to sex charges against theologian

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Scottish theologian was yesterday acquitted of five charges of sexual assault after a court ruled that he was the victim of a church conspiracy.

Professor Donald Macleod, 55, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Free Church College in Edinburgh, was hounded by powerful members of the Free Church of Scotland for more than ten years. They spread rumours and innuendos about his personal life and prevented him from preaching and publishing articles.

According to Sheriff John



Professor Macleod and his wife Mary after the trial

Puritanical sect falls from grace

By OUR SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ONLY in the Free Church of Scotland would Professor Donald Macleod be seen as a liberal. At 55 and standing 6ft tall, this unsmiling Calvinist with his booming West Highland voice and sober navy suits is most people's idea of a hell-fire-and-brimstone preacher.

But in the confines of the Free Church, which has changed little since its establishment in 1843, Professor Macleod is seen by some as a dangerous reformer whose desire to drag the Church into the 20th century may destroy it.

The professor, regarded as the Church's most brilliant mind, takes a relaxed view on a number of issues that the Free Church holds dear. He is not upset by women wearing trousers or attending church bareheaded. In court he said he did not hold with the Free Church article of faith which describes the Pope as "the man of sin". He thinks ministers should, on occasion, leave off their clerical collars and

should be allowed to conduct cremations. One church member said: "God may have given Moses the Ten Commandments, but he gave Free Church ministers a further 200."

The picture that emerged in Court of Edinburgh's Sheriff Court of a number of powerful ministers willing to use subterfuge and slanderous gossip to bring down one of their most highly regarded preachers has made many in the Free Church squirm.

Professor Macleod's position in the Church is unclear. He has talked about joining the Church of Scotland. If he leaves the Free Church, up to half the Church could go with him. It has only 6,000 members and 19,000 regular attendants, many of them crofters eking a living from the harsh environment of the Western Isles. Already 2,000 supporters have signed a petition backing the professor and a fund to pay his legal fees has raised more than £20,000.

Eight held in abuse inquiry

EIGHT people were being questioned yesterday over sex-abuse claims in an inquiry which began when a girl made allegations to a teacher.

Five men and a woman were detained when detectives and social workers executed search warrants at six homes in north Cornwall under the Protection of Children Act.

The men, aged 35 to 53, were arrested on suspicion of raping girls aged between 13 and 15. A sixth man, in his late twenties, was later arrested in north Cornwall on suspicion of similar offences and a seventh in Shropshire.

A 23-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly exposing a child to moral danger. Police said that hundreds of videos and a quantity of printed matter had been seized during the investigation.

Three children aged under four were subject to emergency protection orders and a care order had been made for a 14-year-old. A number of other children were expected to be interviewed.

Stranded sailors died as mist fell

BASIC safety equipment could have saved three men who drowned after their boat was thrown against a sandbank, a fatal accident inquiry was told yesterday.

Gerald Bruce, 58, his son Iain, 26, and Alan Jones, 50, died as they tried to walk in thick mist, the 500 yards from their smashed and beached boat in the River Tay estuary to the shore. They and the sole survivor, Jim Miller, 45, became disorientated when the mist descended.

The amateur sailors, who were taking the newly purchased 28ft vessel from Newburgh, Fife, to their home town of Arbroath, Tayside, had no radio, lifejackets or distress flares.

Mr Miller said: "We made a joint decision to cut the corner at Gaa Sands. We saw the marker buoys but we thought they were only for big boats. We got stuck on a sandbank. Then this wave came along, lifted the boat up and cracked it. It just cracked. We jumped overboard and decided to walk to the shore. When we

went into the water it was only up to our knees and it was a fine, sunny day. But then the mist came in and we just lost all direction.

"We had one lifering and we tied three plastic drums to our belts. We thought the tide would take us in but it just took us round in circles. I didn't think the water was that cold at first, but it was cold after you had been in it for a while.

"Gerry died first. He had a heart problem and was nervous from the start. When he died we did not want Iain, his son, to see him, so I made sure he was facing the other way. Then Iain died.

"I managed to get one leg out of the water, that's how I was found by the lifeboat."

John Hughan, the lifeboat coxswain, said that he would expect anyone planning to make the journey to have a radio, lifejackets and preferably a liferaft. He added that a compass and navigational charts would be essential.

Sheriff Norrie Stein said that basic safety measures would have saved the men.

Father, 14, spared detention

By LIN JENKINS

A COURT yesterday decided not to impose a custodial sentence on a 14-year-old boy for a string of car crimes to give him the chance to bring up his baby daughter. The boy was given a conditional discharge for 37 offences committed before the child was born.

The youth court at Huntington, Cambridgeshire, had deferred sentence from January to see if the teenager,

who admitted the offences, could keep out of trouble.

John Kirkpatrick, for the boy, said: "He has not offended since his last court appearance. He is training at a garage and acting as a father to his child with his partner."

The teenager stole ten cars between August and October last year, abandoning them in fenland villages. Phillip Loakes, chairman of the youth court panel, said: "This

was obviously a stupid and very annoying spree for a lot of people. It affected a lot of people's lives.

"We are pleased to see that you have done something about your lifestyle. We know you have a young daughter and we hope you bring her up in a proper environment which will be free of crime."

The charges included taking a vehicle without permission and driving without a licence and insurance.



Survivors of the big purge at IMG Models: from left, Lisa Butcher, aged 24, Tyra Banks, 23, and the veteran Lauren Hutton, 52

By CAROL MIDDLETON

THE most vital statistic for some models yesterday was their age. Sixty who are beyond the ripe old age of 25 have been told their services are no longer required by a major agency seeking to freshen its image.

The second witness, Dr B., 35, a senior lecturer in statistics, said that the professor had sexually assaulted her on two occasions, once in his study in the Free Church College in Edinburgh and once in a parked car.

The Sheriff said he had found the woman to be a "powerful personality". He did not believe that she would have kept quiet during a sustained assault.

The three other women who made allegations against Professor Macleod were all members of the same Free Church in Edinburgh and were good friends of Mr Murray. They alleged the professor had tried to kiss them. All denied they were part of a conspiracy.

The charge relating to one of the women was dropped after she gave a different date for the assault from that on the charge sheet. The Sheriff said he felt there were discrepancies in the accounts given by both the other witnesses.

Going through evidence of attempts to discredit Professor Macleod by those inside the Free Church, including Mr Murray, Sheriff Horsburgh said he felt witnesses were right to regard Mr Murray as "a dangerous man".

Sheriff Horsburgh said: "From all the evidence, I have come to the conclusion there was a conspiracy. It involved a number of people inside and outside the Free Church. They may have had different reasons for their hostility towards [the professor], but the common objective was his downfall."

Afterwards Professor Macleod posed for pictures with his wife Mary and said he would not bring legal action against his accusers. "Life is too short. I want to get on with my life," he said.

Youth before beauty for the models 'too old at 25'

By CAROL MIDDLETON

Rosellini, who is pushing 45.

Lisa Butcher, who is with IMG, remains safe at 24 however and Tyra Banks, another of its models, is 23. Lauren Hutton, who became a Revlon girl for the second time at 50, is now 52 — more than twice as old as her employers' guideline.

The latest decision was seen by some industry insiders as a desperate attempt to win back favour with the publications which are understood to have reduced the number of IMG models. The agency defended its decision claiming it wanted to make itself more high-

profile. Its director, Soraya Burton, was reported as saying: "Our problem was that we had some older, sophisticated, more commercial girls who no longer fitted our image. We are now looking for young, homespun talent."

The move comes weeks after model scouts were criticised for approaching girls as young as 12. Only a few months ago Laraine Ashton, a

model's former managing director, resigned after enraging women's magazines by accusing them of exploiting young models in semi-pornographic shots.

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Carole White, managing director of the Elite modelling agency which has Linda Evangelista, 31, on its books, said IMG's move seemed "very hard". She added: "All modelling agencies are governed by what their clients want. In general they want girls from 18 to 25, but there is a huge demand for older girls which we do not particularly specialise in. But we have beautiful older girls with us."



Overworked doctors desert the inner cities

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MEDICAL care in the inner cities is threatened with disaster because of the exodus of doctors from the NHS, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

Doctors are turning their backs on general practice because of flagging morale, overwork and unsocial hours, and hospitals cannot recruit consultants in some specialties such as anaesthetics.

The annual conference of the association called yesterday for national action to deal with the growing recruitment crisis. One in six medical students is dropping out before they qualify and half of vocational training schemes for GPs are undersubscribed. Some estimates suggest that up to 25 per cent of doctors are not working in the NHS three years after qualifying.

At the other end of the age scale, more GPs are retiring early, with a 25 per cent drop in the number working beyond 60 in the past six years. In east London, a recruitment fair to fill 140 GP vacancies had failed to secure a single

doctor, the conference was told.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA's GP committee, said: "With doctors not wishing to come into practice and others leaving, we are facing a disaster. There is a potential breakdown of general practice in the inner cities."

A BMA committee set up last year to examine the manpower crisis has been unable to obtain accurate figures on the workforce because they are no longer held centrally. Dr Ian Banks, a member of the committee, said that the figures that were available painted a frightening picture.

The apparent rise in the number of GPs - 4.9 per cent from 1990 to 1994 - disguised the fact that more were working part-time. This is partly accounted for by the rising number of women, who make up a third of the profession.

Dr Banks said: "Something is going very badly wrong. We are losing doctors at the older ages because of early retirement and at the younger ages because of a failure to recruit. Not only is there not enough water coming into the bucket, but it has a hole in it as well."

Dr Banks said GPs were caught in a vicious circle as their colleagues departed and their workload increased. The conference in Brighton was told how the recruitment problem extended to hospitals. Joy Edelman, a consultant in Ilford, east London, said: "A few years ago it was a rarity to find any doctor retiring before 65. Now it is most unusual to find

any that are going on to that age. I don't need the hassle is the usual comment."

Dr David MacDonald Burns, 59, a consultant at the Royal Free Hospital in north London, who expects to retire next year, said: "The reason we want out now is because we do not feel valued. The NHS does not value continuity of experience and that is what the patients need. NHS trusts want someone cheap and quick."

Dr Michael Oliver, a GP in Crewe, said that ten years ago his practice had 150 applicants for a partner's post but last year it had attracted only 12 for a similar job. "It is the worst crisis we have faced for 30 years," he said.

The Health Department said: "We don't see there is a crisis, although there are some pockets of difficulty. GP numbers continue to rise and there are sufficient to fill the vacancies."

□ A stress counselling helpline for doctors has taken 800 calls in its first ten weeks. One in four callers to the helpline, launched by the BMA in April, said they were unable to cope with their work.



A construction worker taking a break in the London sun yesterday. Temperatures in the capital reached 26C. Forecast, page 26

Britons ignore cancer danger in quest for 'healthy' tan

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ACRES of bare brown skin featured in television advertisements and holiday brochures are conveying a dangerous message, psychologists said yesterday. Images such as Baywatch and the Diet Coke advertisement, showing a bricklayer stripped to the waist, reinforced the idea that a tan was healthy. But sunbathers were increasing their risk of skin cancer, including the most dangerous form, melanoma, which has doubled since 1980.

Professor Richard Eisner of Exeter University and his wife Dr Christine Eisner, director of the Cancer Research Campaign's child and family research group, visited beaches in Devon, Italy and the Canary Islands to interview holidaymakers.

They found that while the British were generally better informed about the risks of skin cancer, they were careless about protecting themselves against it. Many saw "lying on a beach sunbathing and swimming" as an ideal holiday and believed they were not personally at risk if they kept dolloping on sun-cream.

Male outdoor workers were particularly at risk. Dr Christine Eisner told a press conference in London. Women claimed to be more prepared to protect themselves, especially with sunscreen, but at the same time appeared to enjoy sunbathing more and set a higher value on getting a tan.

Educating people about the risks was a "real problem", Dr Eisner said. The only answer was to cover up.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Priceless results of mother care

FOR nearly 60 years pregnant women have wondered why they must visit their doctor or midwife so often. The reason why the doctor takes blood, feels their abdomen to find out which way the baby is lying, counts the heart rate and from time to time orders an ultrasound is usually obvious. Why doctors show greater interest in blood pressure, looseness of rings, the tightness of shoes and the state of the urine is usually a mystery; even doctors do not fully understand changes in the placenta that lead to pre-eclampsia, and even an eclamptic fit during pregnancy, but they have learnt to dread them.

At every antenatal visit, the doctors and midwives are looking for pre-eclampsia, the rise in blood pressure, increase in the swelling in the fingers and feet and the presence of albumin in the urine, which might give the first warning. In the past an eclamptic fit nearly always meant the death of the unborn baby, and sometimes the mother died too, whether from inhalation of vomit, a stroke, kidney failure or liver

complications. With assiduous care, eclamptic fits are now rare but they still kill a thousand babies and seven mothers a year.

Improvement is the result of safety drills and admission to hospital for any mother showing potential signs of serious trouble. In the past eclampsia was comparatively common. In 1959, *British Obstetric Practice* gave the incidence of one in 600 births, and the authors felt this represented a huge advance. The initial antenatal tests are expensive in terms of lives saved, possibly a factor in today's accountability-lean medicine, but the horror of even one unnecessary death from eclampsia, and the sadness produced by stillbirths that could have been averted, cannot be fed into any credit and debit account.

Professor Christopher Redman of Oxford University has denounced any move to reduce antenatal care. Those who remember eclamptic fits in the past will support him.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFOORD

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Young say children should wait to school

BY JONATHAN PRYCE
TRANSPORT COMMENTATOR

THE number of children walking to school has fallen from 50 per cent in 1970 to 35 per cent today, which is a fall of 15 percentage points.

The proportion of school children walking to classes unsupervised has fallen from 35 per cent in 1970 to 10 per cent today, which is a fall of 25 percentage points.

Cutting the number of school runs by 15 per cent would save the government £100 million a year.

Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, has announced a package of measures to encourage walking to school.

He recognises that parents who walk to school are less likely to drive and less likely to buy a car.

He has also recognised that pollution and accidents are a problem.

He has proposed a range of measures to encourage walking to school, including a new scheme to encourage parents to walk to school with their children.

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Hi-tech cheats use supermarket cards to fake credit sales

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FRAUDSTERS are gaining unexpected bargains from the new supermarket loyalty cards, police said yesterday. They are being reprogrammed with stolen details of bank accounts for use as fake "swipe cards" at petrol stations and phone boxes where PIN numbers are not required.

Millions of the new cards are being offered to shoppers in the competition between supermarkets. In the past week, two million Sainsbury's customers have been given the new Reward cards. Tesco has more than 6.5 million holders.

The fraud involves the use of £700 card-encoding machines. The method is widely available through the Internet and police admit that they are powerless to stop information being circulated in this way. Computer-literate teenagers are believed to be involved.

The encoding machines alter the black magnetic strip on the back of the card and insert

a genuine account number and expiry date bought on the black market. Account details could be gathered from a purchase receipt or from a crooked retailer.

The fake cannot be used in a shop, but it can be used for automatic machines which accept credit cards. They could also be accepted by crooked retailers claiming they thought the cards were genuine.

If the forgers manage to get access to a PIN number, they can use cash points to take money from victims' accounts. The encoding machines are also being used by fraudsters to change the numbers on their own credit cards so that transactions are credited to someone else's account.

Losses to banks and other credit card companies from all forms of counterfeit cards are put at more than £7 million a year. Detective Sergeant Peter Rowan, of the West Midlands Police fraud squad, said:

"Last month alone credit card purchases in the UK topped £4 billion, so the potential for plastic card fraud is huge."

An account number and expiry date for a credit card could be bought on the black market for about £20. More sensitive information, including addresses and dates of birth, could fetch £1,000.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said many types of cards could be altered and abuse of the loyalty cards was not regarded as a great threat. Tesco said it would introduce a system to detect when details on a magnetic strip differed from the card's appearance.

The Association for Payment Clearing Services, which represents card-issuing companies, said that by 1998 a new microchip will end the risk of counterfeiting. Losses from cards are running at £80 million a year, of which £60 million comes from card thefts rather than counterfeiting and other abuses.

Puppies raised on filthy battery farms'

BY TIM JONES

NEW laws are needed to stop the "evil trade" at unlicensed puppy farms, animal welfare groups said yesterday. Bitches are kept in appalling conditions and forced to breed as though they were battery hens, they said.

Some estimates suggest that as many as 70,000 puppies a year are raised unlawfully and kept in damp, cold, cramped and excrement-covered pens before being sold at a huge profit. A single litter can fetch £3,000 or more.

Snatched from their mothers when less than six weeks old, puppies often develop behavioural problems and carry diseases and genetic deformities from bitches forced to breed endlessly.

Some of the puppies are transported in small containers over long distances and may end in small cages in the Far East with false kennel Club accreditation, a report published yesterday says.



A boxer bitch kept in cramped and miserable conditions on a puppy farm and made to breed litter after litter

Roger Gale, MP, who chaired the puppy-farming working group, said: "Quite simply, some of the conditions on these unlicensed farms are inhumane and this is a vile and evil trade which must be stopped."

"I suspect people would be horrified if they knew the exploitation and cruelty behind their purchase," The report, which is being sent to

ministers, suggests that in west Wales alone there are at least 290 illegal kennels, more than half the total. The area has become notorious for unlicensed breeding, partly because dairy farmers needed to diversify after quotas limited their milk production.

An RSPCA video shows two puppy farms in Wales in a filthy and ramshackle condition. At one farm, puppies

were found huddled in the dark on a floor covered with compacted excrement. Rohan Barker of the RSPCA said: "It resembled a black hole of Calcutta."

One of the main changes to the law being sought is to give breeders their yearly licence only after premises have been inspected by a vet, rather than by planning officers. A breeding establish-

ment should be defined as premises where more than two bitches are kept for breeding, the report says. Many breeders keep a large number of bitches but avoid the need to be licensed by claiming that only two are for breeding.

Clarissa Baldwin of the National Canine Defence League said: "This is no way to treat the nation's favourite pet."

Long-term jobless advised to start own businesses

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE long-term unemployed should work for themselves instead of job hunting if they want to escape the dole queue, according to a report published today. Self-employment is more secure than full-time or part-time employment for people who have been out of work for more than six months.

The number of self-employed has grown faster in Britain than in any other European country since the mid-1970s, soaring by 80 per cent in two decades to 14 per cent of the workforce.

At the same time, the proportion of people moving directly from unemployment to self-employment has more than doubled, the report shows. Forty per cent of self-employed workers were previously unemployed.

"Our findings cast doubt on the assertion that self-employment is a marginal, insecure form of work, at least among those entering it from long-term unemployment," says the independent Policy Studies Institute, which studied 2,200 people for 30 months.

It was often the marketable unemployed, with better work histories and qualifications, who became self-employed, particularly in a buoyant labour market, the report shows. Men were likely to have good work records and women to be qualified.

A degree proved a liability to the self-employed. Graduates earned 44 per cent less than the unqualified. The only qualifications which added to incomes were those below O-level standard.

The most valuable possession was a driving licence, although a wife was also helpful as a source of free labour, and a house for financial security.

Men were attracted to self-employment by hopes of higher wages but did not earn any more than people in full-time employment. The self-employed earned more than part-timers but self-employed women earned less than full-timers.

The Department of Social Security, which commissioned the report, said it would continue to encourage people into self-employment using the benefit system.

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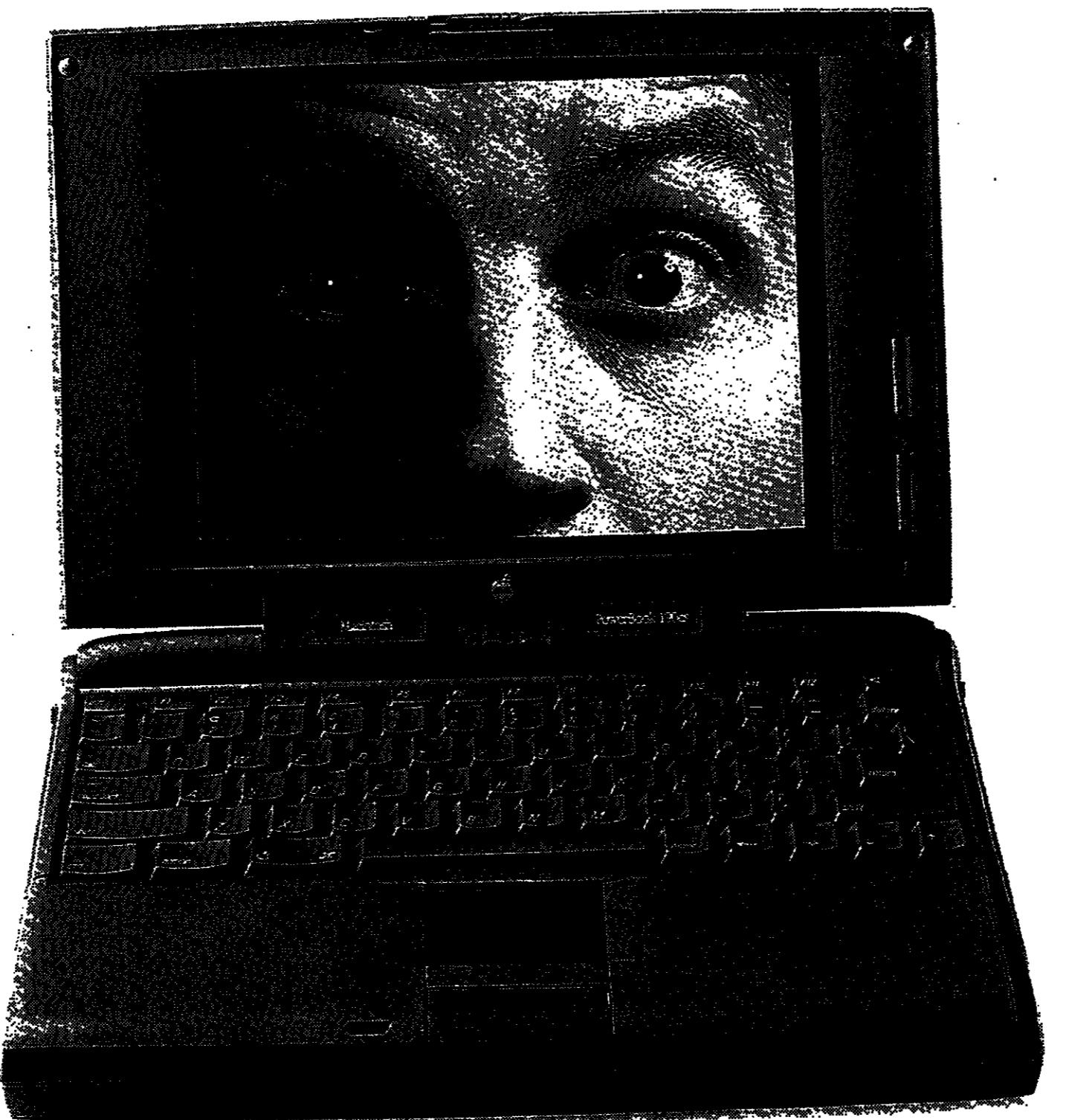
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Blair says he is prepared to press nuclear button

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR confirmed yesterday that he would be prepared to authorise a nuclear attack.

Announcing the foreign policy and defence strategy be adopted by a Labour government, Mr Blair said he would retain the four-boat Trident ballistic missile force and that he would not shrink from using it. He described the responsibility as "awesome".

At a press conference, the Labour leader was asked under which circumstances would he authorise the use of nuclear weapons. He replied:

"These are enormously difficult decisions but yes, you have to envisage circumstances in which your nuclear deterrent can be used, but I don't think it is ever sensible for a Prime Minister to spell out those circumstances."

He said that a Labour government would carry on working for nuclear disarmament, but added: "I believe in retaining our nuclear capability. That is important while we have a nuclear threat in the rest of the world."

Later Robin Cook, Shadow

Foreign Secretary, who was once a member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), told BBC Radio he was relieved that he would not have to decide whether to launch a nuclear attack. However, he said: "There is no point in retaining Trident if you say you are not going to press the button under any circumstances, and therefore the answer that was given this morning is a perfectly understandable and correct one."

When enough progress had been made towards global disarmament, a Labour government would be willing to include Britain's Trident into multinational negotiations, he said.

In a foreign policy and defence document, *A Fresh Start for Britain, Labour's Strategy for Britain in the Modern World*, Labour

accused the Government of failing to rise to the challenges of the post-Cold War era. The series of defence cuts had resulted in the "creation of a damaging gap between commitments and resources".

Mr Blair declined, however,

to say whether Labour would be prepared to cut back on commitments or capabilities to help the overstretched Armed Forces. He did not want to prejudice the findings of the strategic defence review that Labour would set up soon after taking office.

Yesterday Mr Blair also promised to restore Britain's credibility in Europe by ending the Tory slide towards isolationism and adopting a more positive attitude. But he emphasised that he would take a "hard-headed" look at the economic practicalities of joining a single currency. He reiterated that the public would be consulted either through a referendum or through a general election.

That commitment, however,

was omitted from the party's policy document and Mr Blair refused to confirm whether it would appear in the election manifesto.

Mr Cook performed a similar balancing act. "We don't know whether the question will arise in the next Parliament or the Parliament after that," he said. "It is premature

Under the Tories, Britain had lost influence and been increasingly marginalised "not only in Europe, but also in the other international bodies to which we belong", he said. "They have no proper idea of Britain's place in the world and they are sliding towards isolationism."



Sceptics demand Tory rule changes

BY JAMES LANDALE

EURO-SCPTIC Tory MPs demanded an overhaul of party rules yesterday to give local associations greater influence over government policy at the annual conference.

The MPs said that ministers must be forced to listen to the party membership. Their call for what would be an extraordinary change in the method of Tory policymaking came as research showed that the rank and file are growing more Euro-sceptic.

Martin Ball, who did the research for the anti-Europe Bruges Group, accused Conservative Central Office of rigging the party conference to block debates on the EU.

John Wilkinson, MP for Kinsella-Northwood, said the party sought to avoid dissent by choosing only bland motions.

"Conference debates should be a mechanism for influencing party policy."

Christopher Gill, MP for Ludlow, said: "There is a point at which the members of the party will not accept the stage management."

Major and Straw to join battle on constitution

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE battle for Britain's constitution will begin today when John Major and Jack Straw deliver speeches setting out their party's positions on devolution and the House of Lords.

The Prime Minister has become convinced that the constitution is one of the few areas on which the Tories are united and on which there is clear blue water between the parties.

In a speech tonight to the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies, Mr Major will warn the voters that if they elect Tony Blair Britain will be irreversibly split by Labour's plans for Scottish and Welsh assemblies. He will say that the plans would also give the party more power to Brussels.

He will argue that Labour's proposals to turn the House of Lords into an elected chamber are "shambolic" and will succeed only in creating a giant quango. He will also give warning that Parliament could be bogged down by messy constitutional Bills for years.

He will explain that Britain's constitution is the envy of countries around the world and that it would be dangerous to tinker with it. He will also reject the idea of a written constitution or a new Bill of Rights that would shift more power to the judiciary, saying: "I do not believe we can enshrine the British conception of freedom in a single piece of legislation."

But he will propose further reforms to the working of Parliament, including the introduction of two-year sessions.

Mr Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, will retaliate with a speech to the constitutional reformists at Charter 88. He will say that the Tories, far from acting as guardians, have failed to safeguard the constitution. Instead they have

surreptitiously introduced changes that have meant a substantial shift of power from the regions to Westminster, quangos and privatised companies. He will also call for a freedom of information Act and an independent national statistical service that cannot be manipulated by ministers.

Labour's plans have been criticised by a group of expert constitutionalists as ill-thought-out. The Constitution Unit, which published reports yesterday on the implications of devolution in Scotland, Wales and the regions, suggested that Mr Blair's proposals will be feasible only if he makes fundamental changes.

The unit, which is independently funded, admitted that there was a powerful body of feeling for devolution especially in Scotland and that proposals for a Scottish parliament were "perfectly viable". But it was more critical of plans for Wales and the regions.

Their reports say that Labour would probably have to reduce the number of Scottish and Welsh MPs in Westminster and should scrap the positions of Welsh and Scottish Secretaries of State. They criticise the proposals for Wales saying that without lawmaking powers the assembly would be ineffectual.

On the English regions, the unit says that there is little demand for directly elected regional government. Labour's plans to start with indirectly elected regional chambers need "more flesh on their bones" and the party would have to commit itself to legislation.

Gordon Robertson, Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, said: "Labour's proposals are sensible, practical and democratic. They will be good for the State and bind Britain together rather than drive it apart."



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New fight
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FROM S

A WEEK after Yeltsin sacked his security chief, several officials have emerged aiming to fill the vacuum left by the Kremlin. General Nikolai Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's chief of staff and the chief of the state security service, and Mikhail Basov, director of the Federal Security Service (FSB), will take two of the most senior posts in Moscow amid allegations of plot.

The man who was visibly honoured by General Korzhakov's departure is Lieutenant-Colonel Anatoli Kuznetsov, who now confirms he is Mr Yeltsin's personal guard. Through the current presidential campaign the son of Colonel Kuznetsov rarely left the Russian side and he has been General Korzhakov's front passenger on presidential flights.

Little is known about Kuznetsov's broad shoulders and fierce eyes, except that he was trained by the KGB's Directorate, responsible for guarding Soviet leaders. He was handpicked by General Korzhakov.

Kuznetsov's position has changed. He has joined the President for the past two years, but nothing has been

Murder
moment

Riyadh: A Saudi woman copilot who were pardoned before they were executed before a crowd in Saudi Arabia's northern desert town of Hail. Ola' Alzahrani was executed yesterday.

A policeman who had been shot dead by a woman's execution squad that night

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 13

Lebed purges generals loyal to sacked Grachev

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S new security boss, Aleksandr Lebed, purged seven generals from the Defence Ministry yesterday in his first big shake-up since being appointed to the Kremlin.

The sackings were a death blow for a clique of men close to the former Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, who have controlled military policy in Russia for the past four years. Almost all were close allies of the former minister, who was sacked last week, and four of them were named by General Lebed as conspirators in a plot to put forces on high alert and agitate for General Grachev to keep his job.

General Valeri Lapshov, a former classmate of General Grachev, was head of the ministry's apparatus and his right-hand man. General Dmitri Kharchenko was another college friend and his daughter is married to General Grachev's son, Sergei. Two of the other sacked men held senior posts: Viktor Barykin was No. 2 in the General Staff and Vladimir Shulikov was Deputy Commander of Land Forces.

The sackings were also aimed at bringing in the

military vote for President Yeltsin in the second round of the presidential election on July 3. Ordinary soldiers, who respect General Lebed's reputation for honesty, resent the high levels of corruption in the Defence Ministry.

However, General Lebed has also upset many in the armed forces with a series of

speediest possible peace settlement. His views appear to coincide with those of Mr Yeltsin, for whom the war has become a millstone.

The President has signed a decree formally ordering Russian troops to start withdrawing from the republic. The June 10 agreement, signed in Nazran, obliges the Russians to pull out all their forces, apart from two brigades, by August 31. However, low-intensity fighting has continued.

Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the Russian commander in Chechnya, has made scornful remarks about the peace deal in recent days, referring to "so-called negotiations" and calling the Chechens "bandits".

General Lebed has said he plans to visit Chechnya after the July 3 elections.

Zyuganov confident: General Zyuganov said he would beat President Yeltsin in next week's election, despite a cool reception for his plan for a national peace pact and coalition government. "We are sure the result will be in our favour," he told a news conference. "I see people are tired of confrontation." (Reuters)

A call to armchairs

BY RUSSIAN military tradition, the sacked generals will be given handsome pensions and allowed to retire in peace (Thomas De Waal writes). Russia is thought to have the highest

stormy telegrams and aggressive statements in his first days in office, which have broken old norms of Soviet military etiquette. Much will now depend on who is made Defence Minister in succession to General Grachev.

The two favourites are Igor Rodionov, an old comrade of General Lebed, who is head of the Academy of the General

Security Council. Two deputy secretaries were dismissed immediately afterwards.

The Security Council has been the main decision-making body on policy in Chechnya and the general is likely to turn his attention to the conflict there. General Lebed has argued for the



Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, plays volleyball in Moscow yesterday as his rival in the race for the Kremlin, President Yeltsin, notched up a 20-point poll lead

New figures emerge from the shadows to fill power vacuum

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A WEEK after President Yeltsin sacked his hardline security and intelligence chiefs, several new figures have emerged in the jockeying to fill the enormous power vacuum left in the heart of the Kremlin.

General Aleksandr Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's bodyguard and the chief of the Kremlin security service, and General Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the Federal Intelligence Service (FSB), had occupied two of the most influential positions in Russia before their dismissal last week, amid allegations of a coup plot.

The man who has most visibly benefited from General Korzhakov's sudden departure is Lieutenant-Colonel Anatoli Kuznetsov, who has now confirmed his position as Mr Yeltsin's personal bodyguard. Throughout the current presidential election campaign the hulking figure of Colonel Kuznetsov has rarely left the Russian leader's side and he has replaced General Korzhakov in the front passenger seat of the presidential limousine.

Little is known about the broad-shouldered young officer except that he was trained by the KGB's Ninth Directorate, responsible for guarding Soviet VIPs, and was handpicked by General Korzhakov.

Kuznetsov's role has not changed. He has been beside the President for the past two years, but nobody noticed him

because all attention was focused on Korzhakov," said Sergei Medvedev, the Kremlin spokesman. "There is nothing sinister about his work. He is a member of the security services trained to guard the President's life. That is it."

Behind the scenes, however, a shift in power may have occurred with the appointment of Lieutenant-General Yuri Krapivin as the acting head of the Kremlin security service, which not only protects the Kremlin leader but has its own commando force, intelligence operation and an analytical centre.

Yesterday General Krapivin, another KGB veteran and Korzhakov protégé, was promoted to membership of a key commission, under the control of General Aleksandr Lebed, the new National Security Adviser, to oversee the appointment of senior officers in the military.

As for the FSB, the successor to the KGB, General Barsukov's position is currently being filled by Lieutenant-General Nikolai Kovalev. However, his appointment as acting director is already being challenged by Sergei Stepanishin, a former FSB chief who was sacked a year ago.

While many Kremlin observers believe it is too early to predict who will benefit from the upheavals, most agree that General Korzhakov could re-emerge after the elections in the centre of power.

Murderers reprieved moments from death

Riyadh: A Saudi man and woman convicted of murder were pardoned moments before they were to be executed before a crowd in Saudi Arabia's northern desert city of Hael. Okaz newspaper reported yesterday.

A policeman told a crowd that had come to watch the man's beheading and the woman's execution by firing squad that relatives of their

victims had pardoned them. The Governor of Hael, Prince Mokran ibn-Abdul Aziz, secured the pardons, Okaz said.

Fawwaz ibn-Obeid ibn-Habib al-Shemmar was condemned to death after he was found guilty of murdering a relative. Rayya bint Samihanal-Rashidi was sentenced for killing a boy. Under Islamic law, a victim's father or heirs can grant a pardon. (AFP)

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Queen's birthday shift by colony

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

NEXT year's Hong Kong celebration of the Queen's birthday has been moved back two weeks because of the Chinese takeover of the colony. It will be on June 28, instead of June 10, becoming part of the changeover festivities.

Hong Kong's 1997 holidays, announced by the Government yesterday, give a clue to the upheaval ahead. July 1 will mark "Hong Kong returning to China, Special Autonomous Region Establishment Day". August 16 becomes "Sino-Japanese War Victory Day" and October 1, "National Day".

June 28 is "The Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen", moved "to facilitate community participation in the events surrounding the transition". The very British day injects an element of the past into what will be a pro-Peking weekend.

Even more understated is the description of Monday, June 30, the final day of British rule. In the official gazette it will be marked as "the Monday following the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen".

NDAY JUNE 26 1996
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 15

German business fears backlash by China over Tibet

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BONN and Peking were yesterday caught up in a political feud that could harm Germany's position as China's main European trading partner. Contracts worth billions of marks are being negotiated and, although each side claimed yesterday that the row would not hurt commerce, there was anxiety here.

China was angered by a Bundestag resolution last week accusing the Chinese of trying to eradicate Tibet's cultural identity. Peking cancelled an invitation to Klaus Kinkel, Germany's Foreign Minister, who was due next month. After some hesitation, Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, told other Cabinet members to call off their trips.

Battle lines appeared to harden yesterday. "There is no reason for us to take back anything that we said in the Tibet resolution," a German Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said. "Visits were cancelled and this is clear language."

The ripples have spread through the whole range of Sino-German relations. Senior German army officers cancelled scheduled visits and President Herzog's November state visit is in doubt. However, the most significant moves concern business. There are signs that the Chinese Embassy is holding up businessmen's visas, and a September conference on small business investment may be cancelled. Bilateral trade stands at

about DM27 billion (about £12 billion) and new German investment has been flooding in over the past two years. Cumulative German investment in China between 1979 and 1993 was only DM1.5 billion. But in 1994 alone there was investment of DM1.3 billion. So far this year, there have been statements of intent amounting to DM3 billion worth of new investment.

Germany is in a strong position to flex its muscles. Sino-American relations have reached an historic low and at least some of the recent German trade reflects that.

The largest German contract in the offing is the DM6 billion BASF plan to build an integrated petrochemical plant in Nanking, with 50 per cent German participation.

The company said yesterday there was "currently no reason to fear a setback".

In November 1995, during a visit to China by Herr Kohl, 12 declarations of intent were signed — hailed as a breakthrough in relations — and defence ties broken after Tiananmen were resumed. The Chinese then assumed human rights issues would take a lower profile.

Bonn, conscious of the need to save China's face, has never called for Tibetan independence. Last week's parliamentary resolution, backed by the Government, came as a shock to China. Moreover, it came after a Tibetan cultural exhibi-

tion, a well publicised symposium on Tibet and a renewed invitation to the Dalai Lama. Germany, in the Chinese view, seemed to be moving closer to recognising Tibet.

Heinrich Weiss, chairman of the powerful Asian-Pacific economic lobbying group and an industrialist, claims the large number of German-Chinese ventures forces Peking to listen to Bonn. About 100,000 Chinese are employed because of German investments. However, the confederation of German industry sounded a note of panic yesterday when it declared that "misunderstandings must not be allowed to damage economic relations".

China, on the face of it, has more to lose from a lasting trade war because it is the biggest supplier of toys to Germany and exports clothing and electrical products.

Leading article, page 21

Slovenes recall short war that led to prosperity

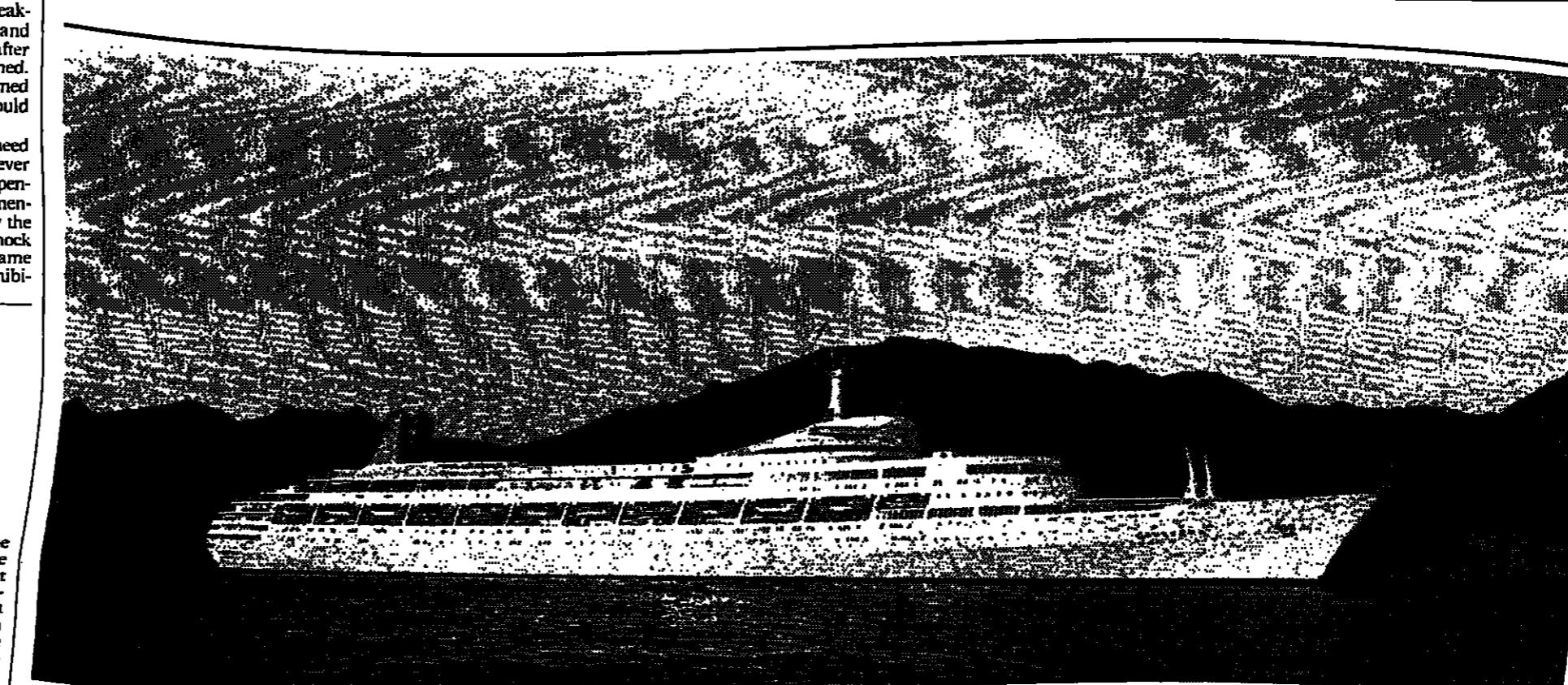
By ROGER BOYES

IT WAS everybody seemed to agree, bad opera... Puccini, perhaps, with lyrics by Claudio. The ten-day Slovene war of independence which broke out five years ago today, was little more than a series of skirmishes in defence of a charming, verdant alpine republic. Yet these were also the initial shots in half a decade of grisly fighting on the southern cusp of Europe, so not much an operetta as the first act of a full-blown tragedy.

Slovenes celebrated their independence not on the traditional Congress Square in Ljubljana, where in 1918 they had shrugged off Austrian rule, but on Republic Square, a soulless stretch of pavement hemmed in by banks, a supermarket and the parliament. As they returned home on the city's cobbled streets, the sirens blared. In a quavering voice, a radio announcer declared: "The tanks of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army have left their barracks."

In the following days the sirens sounded again and again, as Yugoslav MiGs buzzed the capital. Slovenia is perfect guerrilla country and the Slovene Army showed us models to demonstrate how Yugoslav tank columns could be blocked in the mountain passes. Some 70,000 men, out of a population of barely two million, had been mobilised. Ljubljana had the social structure of Toytown, and the soldiers included fishermen, bank clerks and bus drivers. The war, we slowly grasped, was being fought for the press. Reports of great military encounters reached

One of the conditions of independence is the ability to defend borders.



Tarja Halonen, Finland's Foreign Minister, centre, surveys the site of a mass grave at Kravice in Bosnian Serb territory where Finnish experts are to collect the remains of Muslims killed when nearby Srebrenica was overrun last year. Only a

fraction of the suspected victims may ever be uncovered because of the problems surrounding the task (Eve-Ann Prentiss writes).

The move to begin excavating the site comes almost exactly a year after up to 8,000 Muslim boys and men were allegedly murdered by Bosnian Serbs. It also comes as the war crimes tribunal in The Hague is to begin hearing evidence against Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic, his military chief. It was announced, meanwhile, that Bosnia will hold its first postwar election on September 14.

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which started in the early 1900s has moved to the nearby speed track, home of the Daytona 500, driving on the

economy, environmentalists have sued Volusia County, the area covering the beach, arguing that cars are destroying

locals who say the five million vehicles using the beach each year bring in \$3 million (£1.93 million) in access fees.

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Spanish conqueror felled by vandals

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID

VANDALS have toppled and mutilated the statue of the conquistador Vasco Núñez de Balboa, one of Madrid's best-known landmarks.

The bronze statue, unveiled in 1953 to mark the 450th anniversary of the Pacific Ocean's discovery, is prostrate and half-submerged in an ornamental pool, surrounded by empty wine bottles. The conquistador's sword-bearing right arm has also been severed from the body.

While Balboa is celebrated in Spain for his New World conquests, he is perhaps more familiar to lovers of English literature as the victim of a spectacular example of poetic licence.

In his *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*, John Keats stated that it was "stout Cortez" who first "star'd at the Pacific". Keats immortalised the wrong man. It was, in fact, Balboa who stood with all his men, "silent upon a peak in Darien".



THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 1996

Evil of child labour attacked

By MICHAEL DYNES

WELL-OFF consumers should be urged to boycott products made by children to try to stamp out the growth in child labour, Bill Jordan, general secretary of the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, said yesterday.

With about 200 million children now employed worldwide, Mr Jordan, former president of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, appealed to governments, multinational companies, consumers and international trade unions to help fight the continuing increase in the practice.

Shoes from Brazil, carpets from North Africa, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, underwear from the Philippines, and toys from China and Thailand are some of the products made by children, according to a report published by the confederation yesterday. At the organisation's five-day congress, Mr Jordan told journalists: "We're not here to condemn the countries where child labour exists, but to help them out of this downward spiral."

The congress is debating trade union rights worldwide, rising unemployment and poverty, cheap child labour and the effects of the globalisation of trade.

Introducing the report, *No Time to Play*, Mr Jordan said there was evidence that the problem of working children was getting worse. More and more companies employ them, sometimes as young as five, through subcontractors.

"It's a question of tracing the point of source," he said. The confederation and Fifa,

the world soccer governing body, were following up a recent case of child labourers in Pakistan found producing footballs bearing the Euro '96 soccer logo, he added. "We wrote to Fifa and they acknowledged that it was a problem. We and they are going to take the long and winding route to the source of this most appalling child labour through the sub-contractors," he said.

The confederation, which represents 127 million workers through 194 affiliates around the world, was asking its members to help provide evidence. Mr Jordan said. But, because child labour creates wealth, investigators often came up against a "wall of silence" and intimidation.

The confederation's report gives details of child labour in 20 countries. Up to 100 million under-age workers, a quarter

of the total, are thought to be in India, where school dropout rates in hand-made carpet-producing areas are about 85 per cent.

In the Philippines, children imprisoned in a sardine factory for a year were crippled by cramped conditions, while their counterparts in Brazil dig by hand in mines and are murdered if they try to escape, the report adds.

It says that in the United States more than 20,000 children are illegally employed in hazardous occupations and almost 50 are killed and 128,000 injured in work-related accidents each year.

In Britain, child prostitution is developing apace, it adds.

Between 15 and 20 per cent of children in Latin America work, many as domestic servants for no pay. "The biggest contribution is for developed

countries to pay for those other (less developed) countries to get out of this hole," Mr Jordan said.

The report says that many child labourers are following in the footsteps of their parents, adding that education for children is the single most important way to break the cycle. A "social clause" penalising countries that do nothing to stop the practice should be introduced into international trade agreements, the report suggests.

The confederation scornfully dismisses arguments that child labour is a traditional aspect of most societies and is important for their personal development.

"These were the same arguments used to justify massive exploitation of children in the industrial revolution and they are as false now as they were then," the report says.

WORLD SUMMARY

US capital is hit by tornados

Washington: A rare series of tornados hit Washington suburbs, ripping off roofs, uprooting trees and leaving 250,000 homes without electricity (Ian Brodie writes).

There were no reports of injuries from the storm during the evening rush-hour, but one family had a narrow escape when an oak tree crashed through their roof and landed in the living room. The worst tornado swirled at 150mph and fallen trees caused huge traffic jams. The storms were caused by a combination of heat, humidity and converging air currents.

UN chief briefs Major on reform

London: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday gave John Major a detailed briefing on his efforts to reform the United Nations in a clear attempt to win British backing for a renewal of his five-year term of office (Michael Binion writes).

Dr Boutros Ghali, who will today meet Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is on his way to the G7 summit in Lyons.

Euthanasia MP says he has AIDS

Sydney: A former New South Wales MP announced that he had AIDS and hoped to take advantage of voluntary euthanasia (Roger Maynard writes). Paul O'Grady, 36, who resigned this year, was the first Australian politician to admit his homosexuality publicly. He took up the euthanasia cause after the Northern Territory Government passed a Bill to legalise voluntary euthanasia.

Nigeria frees opposition editor

Lagos: Nigeria has freed Nosa Igiebor, the editor of an opposition magazine, *TELL*. He had been jailed since December. His release, the seventh recently, coincides with talks in London between Nigeria and the Commonwealth from which the country has been suspended over human rights. But any link between the two was denied by the Nigerian junta. (Reuters)

Sweden accused over 'racist' CD

Stockholm: A 26-year-old Swede was accused of distributing CDs inciting racism and propagating hatred — the first such charge. Police seized 554 copies of the *White Solidarity*, a collection of songs performed by seven groups from different European countries, when they searched the unnamed suspect's Askersund home. (AP)

Family flees to freedom

Rabat: Maria Oukfir, 34, daughter of a former Moroccan army general, yesterday fled 24 years of persecution suffered in revenge for her father's attempt to overthrow King Hassan (Mark Huband writes). She escaped in a small boat across the Straits of Gibraltar with an aunt and an adopted son.

Plan to build pub in a mug

New York: The small town of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, is planning to build a 130ft edition in the shape of a giant beer Stein (Tom Rhodes writes). The glass handle will serve as a lift shaft and at the top of the nine-storey Steinhaus will be a pub. The rest will be a shopping emporium.

Off licence

Oslo: A man who had just passed his driving test failed a breath test after the examiner smelled alcohol — and immediately had his newly-won licence revoked. He was later jailed for three weeks. (AP)

OVERSEAS NEWS 17

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Top Gear 1996
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A wounded President Lincoln clutches the Union flag that absorbed his blood after he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. He died the next day

Flag that cushioned dying Lincoln found in village

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

A TINY museum was mobbed by television crews and flooded with national newspaper calls yesterday over a gem displayed for 42 years.

Polk County Historical Society in the village of Milford, Pennsylvania, has always boasted that its blood-stained American flag was used as a pillow for Abraham Lincoln's head the night he was assassinated but no one took the museum seriously. Now it has been vindicated.

Joseph Garrera, a Lincoln buff from neighbouring New Jersey, heard of

the claim last year and began to investigate. He discovered the flag had been given by Paul Struthers, a local man whose grandfather, Thomas Gourlay, and mother, Jennie, were acting at Ford's Theatre in Washington on the night of April 14, 1865 when Lincoln was shot.

The President's entourage pulled the flag from the front of Lincoln's box to cradle his head. After the President was removed, Thomas Gourlay, also the theatre's part-time stage manager, bundled up the flag and took it home.

He died in 1885 and left it to his daughter who married and moved to Milford in 1888. She, in turn, be-

queathed it to her son, Paul Struthers. Mr Garrera produced a hefty report summarising his hundreds of hours of research. He sent it to leading Lincoln scholars, who found his conclusions irrefutable. "I'm just about convinced it's the flag that was in the theatre," said Michael Maione, historian of Ford's Theatre, now run by the National Park Service.

The flag was one of the most significant Lincoln finds in decades and a "touching symbol", said Wayne Temple, chief deputy director of the state archives in Illinois, Lincoln's home state. "Here his head was lying on a folded flag of the Union that he

gave his life for." Mr Garrera called his discovery "the most exciting thing I'll ever be involved in". He said the museum's claim was dismissed only because no one could believe such a national treasure was not in a great institution.

Barbara Buchanan, the Historical Society's president, was thrilled to be vindicated, but apprehensive. The modest museum, run by volunteers, opens three days a week, charges \$2 (£1.30) admission and attracts about 1,500 visitors a year.

That is likely to balloon to 150,000 — unless Ford's Theatre museum tries to reclaim its stolen property.

Mrs Clinton denies resorting to guru

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

WITH a mixture of humour and anger, Hillary Clinton is trying to quell stories about her use of a spiritual guru before they cause serious damage.

She and President Clinton joke in their speeches about her communing with the dead, but the First Lady also issued a statement emphatically denying that she had turned to Jean Houston, founder of the Foundation for Mind Research, for succour. "I have no spiritual advisers or any other alternative to my deeply-held Methodist faith and traditions I have relied on since childhood," she said.

A new book by Bob Woodward, the celebrated Watergate journalist, describes a scene in the White House private quarters last April when Dr Houston guided Mrs Clinton through an imaginary conversation with Eleanor Roosevelt, her equally controversial predecessor.

Mrs Clinton insisted this was merely "an interesting intellectual exercise" and part of a "free-wheeling discussion"

designed to stimulate ideas for her book on children. In several interviews yesterday, Dr Houston also denied it was a seance and accused the media of deliberate distortion.

White House aides

believe the source of the leak may be Barbara Feinman, the original ghostwriter of Mrs Clinton's book. Ms Feinman once worked as Mr Woodward's researcher, and she attended and taped the White House session.

Mrs Clinton faces another test today when a congressional committee grills Craig Livingstone, head of the White House Office of Personnel Security, about why he ordered FBI background files on more than 400 Republican officials and permanent White House staff. One retired FBI official who worked on the request claimed it was inspired by Mrs Clinton because she was determined to discover who leaked a story about her throwing a lamp at her husband.

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Leading article, page 21

Turtles threaten Daytona racing

FROM TOM RHODES
IN NEW YORK

THE car enthusiasts who have made Daytona Beach a byword for speed and beach parties are under pressure from environmentalists who fear they pose a threat to the loggerhead turtle.

Although the motor racing which started in the early 1900s has moved to the nearby speed track, home of the Daytona 500, driving on the

golden sand remains an attraction at the resort.

The soft sand of the dunes, however, has also lured adult female loggerheads and green turtles, protected under the Endangered Species Act in America, which crawl ashore at night to lay their eggs.

In a dispute which could have dire effects on the local economy, environmentalists have sued Volusia County, the area covering the beach, arguing that cars are destroying

turtle nests and killing hatchlings. Last summer a federal court forced the county to prohibit beach driving at night. Now the environmentalists are seeking a total ban between May and October.

Volusia County has proposed that it should close nine miles of the most sensitive beach. This has dissatisfied locals who say the five million vehicles using the beach each year bring in \$3 million (£1.93 million) in access fees.

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what we believe**what I believe**

MAX CLIFFORD

Do you believe in God? I believe in Christianity as a way of life.

Do you believe in ghosts? Not at all. Is there life after death? I would like to think that something of our spirit lives on.

Do you believe in astrology? It's simply light relief and not to be taken seriously.

Do you think your sins will be punished? I believe we are punished in this life, even though sometimes it doesn't seem as if we are.

Have you ever prayed? Although I never go to church, I pray to God every day. Does faith matter? I think without faith we are lost. It improves the quality of life, it gives us a set of guidelines by which to live.

Have you ever had a mystical experience? I speak to my mother Lilian all the time, even though she died many years ago. I have this feeling that she is always with me.

what I believe

JOHN ASPINALL

Do you believe in God? I believe in the natural world. I worship the forces of nature — earthquakes, tidal waves, volcanic eruptions, great famines.

Do you believe in ghosts? The spirits of the past are with us in our genes.

Is there life after death? Our immortality resides in our genes.

Do you believe in astrology? Who knows what influence the gravitational force of the Moon has on us?

Do you think your sins will be punished? I think you're punished in this world if you do violence to your own view of yourself.

Have you ever prayed? I never pray. Does faith matter? Faith is important. You have to believe in yourself, in your tribe and in your country.

Have you ever had a mystical experience? I have experienced moments of mysticism when animals have been able to share my thoughts.

Day Three: The orthodoxy of no God at all; plus an alluring oriental alternative

We atheists know right from wrong



Nigella Lawson

I feel almost tactless, in the middle of all this renewing of faith and wallowing in spirituality, to bring up the case against God. But that's to put it too inflammatorily: what needs to be put is the case for atheism.

I don't wish to be naive about this. I recognise that it is assumed that atheism has held enough sway as it is, and what's more is held directly to blame for the fine moral mess we're all in now, and which so alarms the good Dr Carey. I recognise, too, that now might not be the best time to reassess my faith in it, that I thereby run the risk of sounding like those dejected souls at the fall of the Berlin Wall who declared (and not without justification, either) that socialism hadn't failed. It just hadn't been tried yet.

The religious, or perhaps more precisely the nominally religious but devotionally inactive, think of atheism in purely negative terms. This is why in any argument an atheist is perceived to be essentially nihilistic, morally hollow if not morally bankrupt. But to be an atheist is not simply to have a vacuum where other people have belief; it is a positive disbelief. It is a choice, an intellectual and moral choice.

And it's no good arguing that without a religious framework there can be no moral framework, because we know that practically it doesn't work like that. Religion doesn't make people good, nor make them make good choices. It can, of course, describe an

intention to be good, do good, but it can also take away responsibility for moral choices. It is a case in point that there is a disproportionately high number of Roman Catholics convicted and sent to jail. Now, I wouldn't for one minute claim that Catholicism, or any faith, leads to criminal activity or underlines a criminal disposition. But if what is good or bad is seen to reside outside oneself, then so does some of the responsibility for it.

Religion gives rules, it provides order. Surely it requires a greater sense of morality to vest these rules, this order within oneself. Atheism as a rigorous, committed humanism attempts to do just that. It says that the meaning of life doesn't rest in some afterlife.

But to be without one doesn't necessitate being without the other. I was brought up

MORALITY

access to which is governed by a strict system of reward and punishment, but in life itself. Thus, for the atheist, virtue is indeed its own reward. There's no heavenly bribe to make us do good, or hellish torment to keep us from doing ill.

John Patten once said that people would behave better if they had the fear of God put in them, that children would behave better if they were threatened with a bit of fire and brimstone. In a less vigorous way, this is what Dr Carey is saying, too. I'm not sure that the fear of hell and damnation is a failsafe incentive to be good. It should be, of course, but it hasn't been so in the past.

What made people behave better, with more sense of community, in the past was not so much the wrath of God but the wrath of the neighbours. It is social values that we need to consider here, rather than spiritual ones.

Yes, they are linked, and of course a shared sense of values needs to underline this sense of community, but I don't believe that depends on active churchgoing. Historically speaking we necessarily share values: whether religious or not we are shaped by the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Perhaps where we have fallen down is not in failing to instil a sense of God, but in failing to understand how important it is to be imbued with a sense of culture.

But to be without one



Christians have no monopoly on morality; indeed, religion can dilute moral responsibility

Where the spirit meets reason



Buddhist monks at prayer

What makes Buddhism so attractive an alternative to the familiar orthodoxy of Western religion? Since detailed information about it first became available around the middle of the last century, this oriental creed has exerted an enduring fascination on the Western imagination.

From the outset it appealed to a broad spectrum of society, from the intellectual to the plain curious. Today, its appeal is no less broad and its followers include celebrities such as Tina Turner and Richard Gere as well as those who have become disenchanted with established religion.

Its success lies in its ability to integrate two strands which have become separate in Western culture: the spiritual and the rational. Buddhism

seems able to refresh the spiritual parts that Christianity can no longer reach. Unlike post-Reformation Christianity, Buddhism is not embarrassed by belief in psychic powers and unseen forces, and displays an easy familiarity with both the cosmos and the human psyche.

Established religion — in retreat before science and the secular professions — has abdicated its claim to this territory. Many find Buddhism more in tune with modern life. Where Christianity offers counselling, Buddhism offers a sophisticated spiritual technology.

The second reason for Buddhism's appeal is its thoroughgoing rationalism in matters of doctrine, coupled with the absence of any requirement for uncom-

"truths" has made it seem dogmatic, irrational, and backward-looking. By contrast there seem few Buddhist doctrines which are in direct conflict with science.

The absence of an anthropomorphic concept of deity is another feature which makes Buddhism more acceptable to the modern mind. Even belief in reincarnation — one of the more exotic aspects of Buddhism — is rapidly becoming part of popular culture.

It is undogmatic, even to the extent of instructing its followers not to accept its own teachings uncritically. Its moral teachings are not expressed as commandments in the imperative form but as rational principles which, if followed, will lead to the good and happiness of oneself and others. The Buddhist tolera-

tion of alternative viewpoints contrasts with some of the darker episodes in the history of Western religion.

Buddhism has one great — if unfair — advantage over Christianity: it has not yet "failed" in the way that established religion is widely perceived to have done.

However, it seems to lack a "social gospel" and is largely silent on contemporary moral issues. Searching questions remain to be asked when the honeymoon is over.

DAMIAN KEOWN

This article contains extracts from the author's forthcoming book *Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction*, to be published by Oxford University Press on October 3. The writer is Senior Lecturer in Indian Religion at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

what I believe

KEN STINGSTONE

Do you believe in God? I used to believe in Jesus when I was at school, then I became an atheist and now I consider myself to be an agnostic.

Do you believe in ghosts? My mother and my grandmother used to visit spiritualists and it was the inexplicable accuracy of some of the messages they received that made me question my earlier atheism.

Is there life after death? What defines us as human beings is the data that is stored in our brain cells and I just don't know what happens to that when we die. There are things in life that are simply inexplicable.

Have you ever prayed? I did as a child.

Does faith matter? I think you have to have some sort of framework by which you can try to develop a civilised way of living. Religion provides one kind of framework. We are animals and the entire 10,000 years of human civilisation has been about trying to build frameworks to control our instincts.

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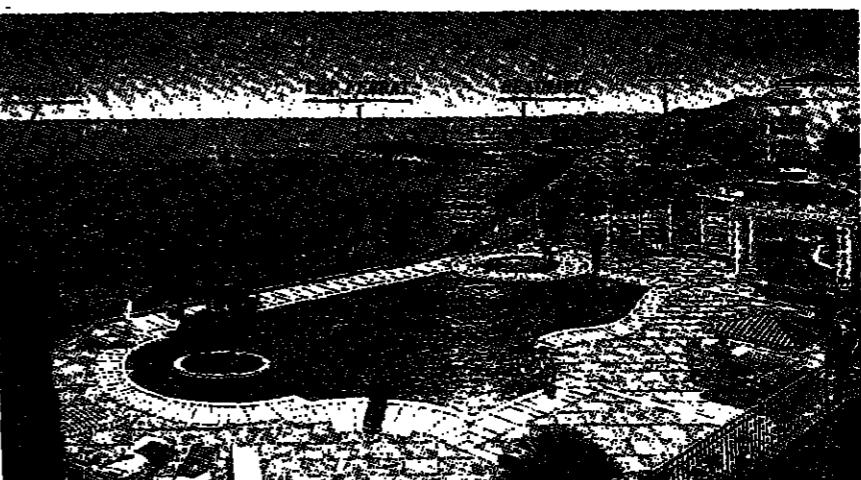
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gruppo
de angelis

Alan Coren



Doctors can alleviate the NHS cash crisis with a more personal service

Forgive, if you can find it in your hearts to, any slapdashery you come across in today's dissertation — dangling particles, anaesthesia, catachresis, stuff like that — because my immensely important contribution to this week's increasingly burning debate has to be frantically cobbled together against the clock if it is to be in time for tomorrow's keynote BMA conflagration, and I cannot sit here all day fretting about syntax. Indeed, as soon as I am done, I may very well rush down to Brighton personally, insinuate myself into the Metropole Hotel (I have a charcoal-grey whistle, and know where to lay my hands on a stethoscope for its top pocket) and raise from the conference floor the points hereunder appended, as we delegates say, plus any more I can think of on the train.

For tomorrow the BMA is scheduled to debate whether the moment might not have come to relax the draconian strictures prohibiting sexual relations between doctors and their patients, and I have two penn'orth that I wish keenly to put into the discussion. Possibly three penn'orth, for this matter — notwithstanding yesterday's compassionate bargains on this very page by Libby Purves — should be not about equals at all, but about money, since it is being addressed only three days after that same conference was told that the NHS faced a shortfall of £6 billion, and culturally that must surely count for far more than the mere moral rights or wrongs of two people, instead of just one, going behind the screen and taking their kit off.

Now, all week we have been hearing that the core of the issue is not simply that male doctors are immensely attractive to female patients, but that they are so immensely more attractive than the males the female patients have already got that the patients see the former as the cure for the chronic malaise brought on by the latter. Half the women in the average waiting-room, it seems, are ill because they are sexually unhappy, and all that is required to put the roses back in their cheeks, they firmly believe, is a romp with their GP.

If this is indeed the case, the NHS is sitting on a goldmine, and the BMA should be enjoined not merely to allow doctor-patient shenanigans, but actively to encourage them by incorporating them as treatment. Under this scheme, doctors would be empowered to prescribe, where indicated, a dose of themselves — for, of course, a fair fee to be proportionally remitted, via the funding arrangements, to the NHS. This fee would naturally have to be within the purse-reach of the average patient (but perhaps waived, as now, for OAPs), which is to say in line with such other supplementary charges as dentures, wigs, spectacles, walking-sticks, and so forth; though a commensurately larger fee should, I suggest, be demanded from patients wishing to see a specialist. Thus the nation would become the beneficiary of a service which would, at a stroke, reduce wide-scale suffering, offer a just and reasonable reward to doctors for the extra work involved, bring much-needed resources to the desperately underfunded NHS (remember that treatment will not incur any of the usual profit-denting outgoings such as cutting-edge equipment, ancillary staff, ambulances, or drugs — except, perhaps, for a pre-medicalisation gin and a post-operative fag) and at the same time maintain a commendably professional relationship, currently sadly lacking, between the carnally engaged.

I do stress that this benefit must be available to all, which is why I was at pains to stipulate the reasonableness of the fee. The last thing we need is a two-tier sexual service: the notion of well-heeled queue-jumping private patients collaring the most fanciable consultants, even spiritng them off for long Antibes weekends or setting them up in convenient Harley Street boudoirs, is not only trumpery to the caring NHS spirit, it would almost certainly exacerbate the condition it was designed to alleviate by causing a trickle-down effect likely to consign the nation's poorer sufferers to some clapped-out depurifying locum with bad breath and torn underwear. Not at all what the patient ordered.

And totally unethical.

As England warms up for Wembley, John Redwood asks if Chancellor Kohl is preparing to bully Europe

England's football fixture against Germany has raised more than the usual hyperbole, lurid headlines and hot air. There is something special about the contest. It has stirred deep feelings.

It invites us all to think again about the problem of Germany. The German question has bedevilled Europe in the 20th century. When peace followed the Allies' victory in 1945, the German question was temporarily resolved by splitting Germany, by occupying it, by disarming it. Germany responded magnificently by establishing a flourishing democracy in the West, turning to the arts of peace and, pursuing trade, industry and prosperity.

For 45 years, this settlement worked. The German question was suspended, replaced by the issue of how far communism would expand, and how West Berlin could be defended against a Soviet takeover. The threat of the Soviet Union's military might kept the United States strongly committed to peace in Europe, and kept the centre of Europe weak. The German plains were used for Nato or Soviet tank-training.

The world has been slow to adjust to the pulling down of the Berlin Wall and the greater collapse of authoritarian communism. America remains adamant in defence of the West, but would like to reduce this commitment. Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, having reunited the country within its 1945 boundaries, is now proposing that this bigger, stronger country be locked into a wider European Union — or else, he says, it might throw its weight around. His Germany is still uncertain about

Stand up to Germany, on and off the field

how much to rearm and what role its armed forces should have.

The French Government seeks monetary union to curb the German mark, and is prepared to accept political union as the price. The French people are growing increasingly hostile and resile as the cost of the economic policy mounts daily and as inner fears come to the surface. Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal are nervously wondering whether they will be allowed in, while Britain and Scandinavia wonder aloud if they will be permitted to stay out.

What is the modern German problem? Chancellor Kohl seems to fear a return to German expansionism, yet modern Germany is a peace-loving democracy. It would lose a lot by disrupting the peace, and is not as heavily armed as Britain or France, let alone America. The easy answer to the fears of some countries is to carry on with Nato and maintain the present military balance. It is also important to follow economic policies that promote employment, technology and open trade rather than the opposite.

It is true that many Germans still live outside the borders of Germany. There

are Germans living in the Czech Republic, in Poland, in Hungary and in Austria. But why should this again become an issue which could disfigure international politics? For 50 years the position has been stable. There does not need to be any change in boundaries. It would only become a worry if Germany changed as it changed in the 1930s, and used this as an excuse to lay claim to other countries.

The big difference between the peace of 1919 and the peace of 1945 lay in the way Germany was handled. In 1919, revenge led the Allies to damage the German economy, demanding substantial reparations for financial loss. In 1945, the Allies concentrated on helping Germany to rebuild its shattered economy and to construct a stable democracy, while ensuring that Germany was no longer heavily armed. The 1945 approach was much more successful than that of 1919.

Chancellor Kohl is living in the past. Nazism was born of poverty in the German people. Hitler responded to the lack of national self-esteem caused by the punitive peace and the defeat, and found there a ready recruiting ground

for barbarism. Today there is no worry of extreme right-wing or extreme left-wing groups winning elections and then overthrowing the democracy.

Chancellor Kohl's language is more worrying. He seems to be saying to the governments of Western Europe that Germany may bully now that she is bigger. He offers us the favour of joining Germany's idea of a federal European state before it is too late. Britain must say no. The only answer, were Germany ever to bully us, is to stand up to it. The picture of Tony Blair alongside Chancellor Kohl revealed the naivety of new Labour standing in the shadow of the

bigger European federation is the way to guarantee the peace.

The United States and Britain must remain the principal defenders of democracy and free trade. Together we must be the backbone of Nato, which must continue to guarantee the peace of Europe and the security of nations. We should insist on a free, outward-looking, open-trading Europe. We should avoid building an exclusive Western Europe which leaves people in the East looking across with jealousy or fear in their eyes. We must ensure that the German problem is resolved by keeping the present balance in Western Europe, and by ensuring democratic and peaceful solutions to the vexatious problems of identity and culture.

Football is a good way of letting off steam. We should remember it is only a game. It is good sometimes to ask the basic questions about Britain's relationship with Germany. It will be even better to watch the match safe in the knowledge that Nato will keep the peace and the European Union will assist with trade. Win or lose, it is time for Britain to give some alternative leadership to Europe, based on our mature understanding of the realities of power on our continent.

Major's last hurrah: the 11-plus

Gillian Shephard's White Paper is a shambles which cannot conceal the cruelty of segregating children too early



The way they were: pupils sitting the 11-plus in 1964, on the eve of the comprehensive revolution

Simon Jenkins

Parental choice is now vanishing from Tory education policy just like the Cheshire Cat's smile. Mrs Shephard says she wants "selection as a regular feature" of British secondary education. But her sort of selection is selection by school, not by parents. Any student of school enrolment knows that there is no such thing as partial selection. Make any school's entry exclusive and the outcome is straightforward. As in selective Buckinghamshire or Kent, every primary child sits the 11-plus exam. Those selected by the grammar school are offered a place. The schools for those rejected are not true comprehensives. This is Hobson's choice. It insults public intelligence to call it otherwise.

The White Paper is almost entirely in code. It follows the 1944 Education Act in assuming that roughly a third of British children can be assessed in infancy as suited to (let's face it) better schools than the rest. As in 1944, much euphemism surrounds the remainder, mostly waffle about "technical specialism". Politicians may be fooled, but not parents. Before 1965, 70 per cent of British children went to second-rate schools, knew it, and hated it. The post-1965 comprehensive system had its faults, not least because it

came at a time of misguided teaching theory. Grammar schools, which should have continued as high schools or sixth-form colleges, were too often ruined. But vastly more children received a decent education than before, and numbers staying in the system after 16 soared.

Since then, all surveys and local votes indicate that parents have continued to regard 11-plus segregation as coming far too early. What they want, and mostly get, is streaming within schools. This policy — "a grammar stream in every school" — is supported by Labour and exists in most education authorities and schools. It has nothing to do with grammar schools, and is no offence to comprehensive transfer at 11. But this does not offer Downing Street the "clear blue water" between its policy and

Labour's. So Mrs Shephard must declare that the gains of the past three decades have "lowered standards alarmingly". This is untrue and does not credit to her or the service she leads.

She is ordered to find new grammar schools. They are to be created not with new money but by inducing the most popular comprehensives to leave competition behind and to "opt in" to a national system, run by the Funding Agency for Schools. All pretend that these schools, which now educate about 20 per cent of secondary pupils, are not engaged in selection is abandoned. So claims to the contrary (and to my face) from successive Education Secretaries are lies: they always were. Mrs Shephard's department has tried to retain some local freedom. She at least believes that "governors, teachers and parents" know what is "best for the community" and should have some choice in the matter. Mr Major disagrees. He thinks he knows best, and he wants grammar schools everywhere.

More important, he wants the Funding Agency (that is, central government) to run these schools and to claim credit for the "most excellent" schools in the land. This upends what was once sound

Tory philosophy, that the central State should direct most help to those least able to fend for themselves. Here the central State wants only the best. Last month the Government even mooted that selective schools might get money above their per capita entitlement as a reward for their popularity.

The means whereby "a grammar in every town" is to be pursued are grotesque. Funding Agency schools are to be allowed to select 50 per cent of their entry by academic test, compared with just 20 per cent for local council schools. This is ludicrously unfair and makes no sense why not come clean and let all schools select! It also gives the lie to Mrs Shephard's claim that hers is not a two-tier system. The device is intended not just to persuade popular schools to opt for Funding Agency control; it also ensures that schools left behind will remain at a competitive disadvantage. The proposal is for a social as well as an educational oligopoly — in the hope that it may induce a few lucky 11-plus winners to vote Tory.

Such discrimination can only harm the schools in which the majority of children will be taught. Already Mrs Shephard's department is seeking to close 34 sixth-forms in Kent for fear of their competing with grammar schools. At the behest of parents, these schools have been helping pupils to recover from rejection in Kent's 11-plus by developing as comprehensives. Mrs Shephard's civil servants mean to stop them. The White Paper claims that the Agency can interfere in this way with council schools "to encourage competition". That must hasten the day when some European supreme court subjects British policy to judicial review.

I cannot believe this policy will fulfil its major premise of bringing wavering Tories back to the party. The only role envisaged for parents in the White Paper is to vote to have the school that selects (or rejects) their child run by Mrs Shephard's Funding Agency. Parents should beware. When past governments seized hospitals, prisons and, more recently, water companies from local councils, they also did so in the cause of rationalisation and efficiency. That is now a hollow laugh. Within five years, I bet the Agency will be delivering directives to "opted out" schools by the vanload.

After the 1965 reorganisation, I was convinced that wherever further reform might lead, it would not be back to institutional selection at 11. The divisiveness, the double-talk, the cruelty to children in their formative years, were too much to stomach. The Tory party showed political maturity in accepting this, though most 11-plus winners were its supporters. Selection at 11 was too unfair. It was for history's dustbin. We seem to be watching a party determined to join it there.

Grey threat

ENGLAND have reluctantly accepted their grey football strip, but morale is likely to plummet even further: our boys may now have to put up with the Grey Man. John Major, Prime Minister and notorious jinx at sporting events, has brought forward a speech he was planning to make this evening, which leaves him time to attend the semi-final against Germany.

His supporters might welcome his attendance, but football fans are concerned. Whenever John Major turns out to support his team at Chelsea, they invariably lose. "People think 'Oh God' when they see him," explains a club executive. "They think they haven't a chance if he is there."

Major's nemesis came when Chelsea lost 4-0 to Manchester United in the 1994 FA Cup Final. Jeering Chelsea supporters chanted "Jonah, Jonah" at the bespectacled PM because he had brought them such bad luck. "We lose every time he attends Chelsea," says one fan. "He should be banned."

The Prime Minister is not unaware of his predicament, and may try to avoid the match. So sensitive is

he that he refused to allow photographers to snap him watching England's game against Spain on the television in Florence. "He banned all photographers," says a source. "He was very nervous."

The Oscar Foundation has a touch of the luvvies. It has sent a legal letter to Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, complaining about reports that he

refers privately to his annual awards to outstanding schools as the education "Oscars".

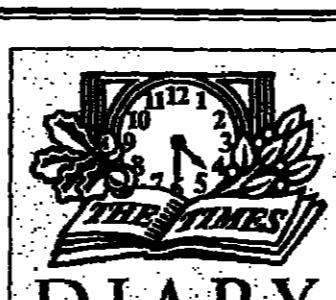
Shirty

A BIZARRE attempt to bring Euro 96 to Wimbledon was foiled yesterday. Alan Mills, the tournament referee, has refused a request from brothers Luke and Murphy Jensen, the American players who grabbed the headlines last year when Murphy was defaulted for going awol on a fishing trip. They wanted to play doubles matches in white England football shirts.

"We are pretty upset about it," says Murphy. "We were told they weren't tennis shirts, but Agassi's long-sleeved shirt with a zip down the middle did not look like a tennis shirt and he was allowed to wear it."

Close look

HENRY KISSINGER is in London, doubtless hoping for another glimpse of the cleavage of the Princess of Wales that he so admired at a society dinner last year in New York. But at a dinner this evening he will have to confine himself to the delights of Carla Powell, wife of



Big screen

RENTAL firms are enjoying a run on televisions as party hosts desperately try to persuade their guests not to stay at home and watch the football. Brian Eno, Bob Geldof and Mick Jagger have all told Marie Helvin that they cannot attend her summer party unless they can watch the match — so she has brought in three televisions.

Bill Kenwright, the theatrical impresario and director of Everton Football Club, has to sit through

the first night of Neil Simon's play *The Odd Couple*, which he is staging, and follow up with a first night party. "I tried to postpone it but the critics wouldn't agree," he grumbles. "Three-quarters of the guest list have said 'no, thank you'."

Bombs away

MORE excitement at the *Daily Mirror*, where the youthful Editor Piers Morgan apologised yesterday after his front page this week showing two England footballers sporting tin helmets and demanding a German surrender.

"Guten" Morgan has a fine selection of German uniforms stored in a disused office in the *Mirror* building, with which he was planning to kit out his *Wehrmacht* reporters. One *Kommandant* at the newspaper had suggested hiring a Lancaster bomber to drop bouncing inflatable bombs bearing the *Mirror* logo along the Thames.

Both the uniforms and bouncing-bomb project have been abandoned, along with Guten's visionary plan to invade Germany in a tank driven by his troops. A conciliatory tone was adopted yesterday when the paper asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to write a football prayer. Dr Carey couldn't oblige, but

another bishop scribbled some words which will not be appearing. The sentence "Bless those who watch, that their support may be faithful and just, not fuelled by tribal hatred or narrow pride" was deemed unprintable.

Hair today

THE SPANISH court is reeling from an extraordinary breach of etiquette committed by the Chinese President Jiang Zemin. As King

Juan Carlos struck up earnest conversation with the panda-like President, who is visiting Spain this week. Mr Jiang felt a strand of Brylcreemed hair fall down on to his forehead.

Without a by-your-leave, he eased his hand into his coat pocket and proceeded to comb the jet-black lock back into place. The King, whose own hair is receding, looked on quite speechless.

P.H.S



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 25: Mr Harry Seidler, winner of The Queen's Gold Medal for Architecture, was received by Her Majesty.

Mrs Seidler was also received by The Queen.

Sir Michael Parridge (former Permanent Secretary, Department of Social Security) was received by Her Majesty.

The following were received by The Queen as Her Majesty's Ambassador: Mr Richard Egan (the Republic of Tuvalu); Mr Robert Condon (Burma); Mr Peter Harcourt (the Slovak Republic) and Mr Peter Marshall (the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria).

Mrs Edis, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Harcourt and Mrs Marshall were also received by Her Majesty.

The Queen, Captain General, Honourable Artillery Company, this afternoon opened the renovated Firebury Barracks, City Road, London EC1.

Her Majesty was received at Admiralty House by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall KG) and the Colonel Commandant (General Sir Michael Wilkes).

The Queen was received on Parade with a Royal Salute and respected the Reparation of Her Majesty.

Her Majesty visited the barracks, escorted by the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel Simon Lator), and subsequently attended a Reception.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh today visited Cambridge and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, this morning visited Cambridge University Boat Club.

The Duke of Edinburgh afterwards visited Work Opportunities Through Self Help, Neath Farm Business Park, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge. His Royal Highness later visited Cambridge University.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Dinner at St Edmund Hall College, Cambridge University.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon Mary Parry, Member, the Mission to Seafarers, today attended the Annual Service and

Annual General Meeting in St Michael and All Angels Royal, College Hill, London, EC4, and the Annual Luncheon at Skinner's Hall, Dowgate.

Her Royal Highness, President, Animal Health Trust, this evening attended a Gala Evening at Chatsworth, Bakewell, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Butcher).

CLARENCE HOUSE

June 25: Miss Jane Walker-Okeover has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

June 25: The Prince of Wales today visited Belfast and was received by the Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland).

His Royal Highness this morning opened the new headquarters of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Centre, met staff and presented Blood Donor Awards.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, later visited Mountaineering Youth Club, and met staff and members of the Prince's Trust.

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Industrial Therapy Organisation's Premises at Newmarket.

The Prince of Wales afterwards opened the Belfast Improved Housing Scheme at Scrabo Manor.

His Royal Highness later visited the headquarters of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Belfast.

The Prince of Wales this evening presented the Northern Ireland Export Awards at a Reception in HMV Britania.

Subsequently His Royal Highness gave a dinner on board for representatives of companies investing in Northern Ireland.

KENSINGTON PALACE

June 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this morning left to visit the Russian Federation.

Her Royal Highness will undertake engagements at St Petersburg with the Annual Festival of the White Nights.

Mrs Jane Stevens and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick are in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

June 25: The Duke of Kent, Member, the Order of the Thistle, Guests Club, Macmillan, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

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Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the City Technology College, Cooks Lane, Kingshurst, Birmingham, at 4.10; and, as Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, will attend a gala dinner and ball at the Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull, at 7.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Townswomen's Guilds, will attend a national council meeting at Cardiff International Arena, Bute Terrace, Cardiff, at 11.30; and will open a new wing of HM Prison and Remand Centre, Knott Road, at 1.15.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit BIS Company (Electroplaters and Silversmiths) at 65 Biford Avenue, Pervale, Greenford, Middlesex, at 1.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Royal Surgical Aid Society, will present the awards for outstanding achievement in architecture and design of buildings for elderly people with dementia, at Drapers' Hall at 6.30.

The Duke of Kent, as President, will attend the reopening ceremony of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, Whitehall, at noon; and as President of the Football Association will attend the Euro 96 semi-final at Wembley Stadium at 7.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will attend the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund annual meeting at the York Barbican Centre, at 4.10.

Lecture

Wellington Society

Mr Peter Gatenby, of PPP, delivered a lecture to the Wellington Society yesterday at the Wellington Hospital. Dr Arthur Levin, chairman of the society, presided.

Meeting

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Speaker presided at the annual meeting of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held yesterday in the House of Commons.

Head Mount School, Hertford

The Revd Harry Matthews, MA, Headmaster, received the guests and Sir Peter Tappin, MP, (Old Boy), President of the School's 1990 Appeal Fund, was the host at a



Work makes its bow

Spring Festival. "I was so impressed that I wrote asking if I might hear some of his other works," he said. Among the pieces Godar sent to him was a sonata for cello and piano. "It was clear here was

a very exciting prospect."

The concert tonight by the BT Scottish Ensemble at the Hellenic Centre in Paddington Street includes the first performance of John Taverner's *Tears of the Angels*, with Cho Gwily, the ensemble's artistic director, as the violin soloist.

Mr J.K. August and Miss J.M. Hall

The engagement is announced between Kean, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David August, of Aix en Provence, France, and Joanna, daughter of Mr Charles Hall, of Corriphan, Hampshire, and Emma, younger daughter of the late Mr David Parry and Mrs Barbara Hall, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr A.W. Bathurst and Miss J.S.E. Brownface

The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr Peter Bathurst and the late Mrs Bathurst, of Pribright, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of the late Mr William Brownlee and of Mrs Brownlee, of Belfast, Co Down.

Mr J.E. Dewhurst and Miss A.J. Faulkner

The engagement is announced between Jamie, younger son of Mr Jeremy Dewhurst, of Bankfoot,

Perthshire, and Mrs Angela Dewhurst, of Glencorse, Perthshire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Faulkner, of Upton Grey, Hampshire.

Mr C.J. Else and Miss M.C. Wood-Mallock

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Else, of Corscombe, Dorset, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wood-Mallock, of Attlebridge, Cheshire.

Mr W.P. Hindley and Miss K.J. Amplett

The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Roy Hindley, of Felbridge, Surrey, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Amplett, of Uptonham, Worcestershire.

Mr S.M.R. Hoekeloe and Miss S. Borelli

The engagement is announced between Sebastian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Quinton Hoekeloe, of Horsted Keynes, West Sussex, and Stephanie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Pasquale Borelli, of Bournemouth.

Mr S.J. Kennard and Miss K.A. Roper

The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Kennard, of Estancia, Marbella, Argentina, and Alice, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Roper, of Fonthill Abbey, Dorset.

Mr C.R.E. Kerville and Miss M.D.M. Morgan-Watts

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs John Kerville, of Leigh, Surrey, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Max Morgan-Watts, of Kensington, London.

Mr J.P.O. Knowles and Miss N.R. Feder

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, second son of Mr and Mrs Martin Knowles, of Colchester, Essex, and Natasha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Feder, of North York, Toronto.

A reception will be held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Balaclava.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J.G. Mitchell

and Miss E.C. Parry

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Commander and Mrs Patrick Mitchell, of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, and Emma, younger daughter of the late Mr David Parry, of Ardsley, Hertfordshire.

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Mr S.J. Kennard

and Miss K.A. Roper

The marriage took place on Saturday, June 22, 1996, at St James' Milton, Cleveland, between Mr Andrew Peat, second son of the late Mr Michael Peat and of Mrs Pamela Peat, of Greenwich, London, and Mrs Frances Minihan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Minihan, of Spargo, Somersett. The Rev Richard Willcox officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Jessie Minihan, Mrs Georgie Campbell, Miss Astaire, Aaron Brookhouse, Blaise Drummond, Esme Drummond, Freddie Howarth, Maisie Pinn, Amber Pinn and Ruby Reid, Mr Tony Pinn and Mrs Linda Pinn, and Lord Edward Manners were best men.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Balaclava.

Marriage

Mr A.M.D. Penn and Miss F.J.O. Minihan

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Funding cuts spoil chance to spot ancient sites from the air

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE present hot, dry weather is offering opportunities for archaeology that will probably be wasted. Cropmarks that would have disclosed unknown sites to aerial photography will go unrecorded because of a lack of funds.

Frances Griffith, honorary secretary of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), said: "It seems clear that there will be fewer aerial archaeological flights than ever before.

In addition, local authorities are hard-pressed, with new and smaller bodies in Wales and Scotland just finding their feet, and English counties having experienced serious cuts."

"The immediate problem is that there will be little money

for aerial reconnaissance this year," Ms Griffith says. "Flying programmes cannot be turned on and off like

OBITUARIES

Pasqualino De Santis. Italian cinematographer, died of a heart attack while filming in Ukraine on June 23 aged 69. He was born in Fondi, in the Latina province of Italy, in 1927.

ALTHOUGH the success (and enduring popularity) of the 1968 film of *Romeo and Juliet* is inseparable from Franco Zeffirelli's instinctive feel for Shakespeare in his direction of its young protagonists, Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey, it also owed much to its director of photography, Pasqualino De Santis. Zeffirelli's was the genius in discerning that, after a number of film versions of Shakespeare's play which had featured seasoned actors, what was required was teenaged performers who could convey the uncontrollable, youthful passions which are the soul of the work. De Santis's lens was the medium through which the beauty — as well as the frequently unruly spirit — of renaissance Italy was evoked.

It was the Umbrian town of Gubbio which, in the film, did duty for Verona, in which of course the story is set. De Santis's camera vividly transmitted the blistering heat of afternoons in the piazza, when all but determined troublemakers are safely ensconced in *siesta*. He evoked the mellow light of evening, reflected from cooling ochre stucco facades. And his ability to handle the absurdity of young love in close-up, without allowing it to seem merely risible, was masterly.

His performance on the film won him an Oscar for cinematography, making him the first foreigner to win an Academy Award in that particular category. In subsequent films, which included *The Assassination of Trotsky*, *Lucky Luciano*, *Death in Venice* and *Chris Stopped at Eboli*, De Santis confirmed his mastery of his medium. He became the favourite director of cinematography for many of Italy's finest film-makers, including Luchino Visconti, Roberto Rossellini and Francesco Rosi. To



The orchard walls are high and hard to climb/And the place death considering who thou art:
Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting in Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*, 1968

create, to invent, to go beyond the intentions of the director; this is what it means to photograph film," he once said.

Pasqualino De Santis was born in the small town of Fondi, halfway between Rome and Naples; he was ten years younger than his brother Giuseppe, the film-maker with whom he made his debut in 1950 with *There Is No Peace Among the Olives*.

De Santis had attended the Experimental Film-Making Centre in Rome between 1945 and 1948 and thereafter became a pupil and assistant of Gianni Di Venanzo, the photograph-

ic director who died in 1966 after working for many years with Federico Fellini and the neo-realist director Michelangelo Antonioni. As a camera operator under Di Venanzo, De Santis refined his technique on films such as *Salvatore Giuliano*, 8½ and *Juliet of the Spirits*. Indeed, it was from Di Venanzo that he learnt the art of creating mood through the lens.

De Santis helped Rosi to finish his 1965 film *The Moment of Truth* after Di Venanzo was taken seriously ill during its shooting. The following year Di Venanzo was asked by the

American director Joseph Mankiewicz to direct the photography of the film *The Honeytrap*. Di Venanzo again fell ill during the filming, this time fatally, depriving Italian cinema of one of its great talents; De Santis completed the photographic direction of that film as well.

By then his reputation was becoming well established and he went on to make a series of films with Rosi including *The Matteo Case* in 1972, *Lucky Luciano* in 1973 and *Excellent Corpses* in 1976. He also worked extensively with Visconti, notably in

the filming of *Death in Venice* in 1971 and of *The Innocent* in 1976.

Visconti would often accuse De Santis of being a "perfectionist maniac" and De Santis recalled that "when we finished *Death in Venice* Luchino told me the film was too perfect and that I should have tried to create a wrinkle here or there".

Visconti actually had a point. The De Santis love affair with the camera which had made *Romeo and Juliet* such a feast for the eye and so ravishing to the emotions had, by *Death in Venice*, become a trifle cloying. Thomas Mann's limp (and perfectly filmable) novella ended up being stilled under the weight of lingering camera shots and a quite needlessly complicated plot. The recent *A Month by the Lake* featuring Vanessa Redgrave was open to the same objection, substituting a somewhat saccharine glow for a realistic evocation of the Italian locations in which it was set. In retrospect (though it had its critics — some severe — at the time) it can be seen that his *Romeo and Juliet* triumphantly avoided the pitfall which awaits every Italian cameraman who has a deep love for his country's scenery — namely that he will end up drowning in it.

Among other foreign directors who often used De Santis was Robert Bresson, for whom he directed the photography of *Le Diable Probablement*. De Santis was always to characterise his relationship with Visconti as that between maestro and pupil; with Rosi as fraternal and with Bresson as "simply mysterious". Bresson was, above all, the film-makers he ever met, a "true poet" in De Santis's opinion.

De Santis also did a fair amount of hack work for television advertising, work he did not greatly care for from the creative point of view, but which helped to pay the bills. He died of a heart attack in Ukraine, while concluding the shooting of Rosi's new film *La Tregua* (The Truce) based on the novel by Primo Levi.

KENNETH RANKIN



Kenneth Rankin, forest economist and chartered accountant, died on May 26 aged 86. He was born on July 2, 1909.

FEW people have had a more dramatic influence on the British landscape and rural employment than Kenneth Rankin. Almost uniquely he saw the possibilities which forestry presented to investors in the early 1950s. As a result of this single-mindedness and prodigious enthusiasm, over 400,000 acres of forest were planted in Britain and elsewhere.

Ironically, Rankin was a victim of his own success. He was never a committee man and the inevitable bureaucracy of a large and successful company was not to his taste. In 1976 he retired from the board, only to set up another company, Forest Investment Management. With his maverick charm and seemingly inexhaustible energy, Rankin was a natural salesman. The key to his success lay, however, in his total belief in what he was selling and in his broad vision of the role of forestry and its industries in supplying British timber needs and bringing employment to rural areas.

In this his objectives were similar to those of the Forestry Commission at that time, founded as it was in the wake of the devastation to home-grown timber stocks during the First World War and at a time of mass rural unemployment. Rankin's enthusiasm for initiating a British private forestry industry was inspired, he said, by the view from a mountaintop in Eastern Transvaal in 1960. To the west there was "an arid desert as far as the eye could see with almost no sign of life at all"; to the east "a quite beautiful scene with the vivid green of the plantations, wildlife, running river, winding colourful roads, sawmills, buildings and houses, supporting railway, and overall a hive of activity. Never again, I felt, should there be any criticism of the conifer."

Rankin always felt particularly at home with foresters and was proud to receive the Society of Forestry gold medal and to be an honorary fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, the first non-professional forester to be so honoured. In his youth, Rankin was a keen sportsman and enjoyed recounting how the feat of coming second in a race at Clifton against Jerry Corns, later an Olympic silver medallist, landed him in the sick bay for a week. In 1960, visiting South Africa as a member of the Roman Cricket Club, he received the dubious distinction of being hailed as "England's oldest living wicket keeper" in the *Rand Daily News*.

Kenneth Rankin married his wife Nancy in 1940, on the weekend of the Dunkirk evacuation. He is survived by her and by a son and three daughters.

REAR-ADMIRAL PHILIP BURNETT



Rear-Admiral Philip Burnett, CB, DSO, DSC and Bar, wartime anti-submarine expert, died on June 10 aged 87. He was born on September 10, 1908.

THE contribution Philip Burnett made towards the defeat of the German submarine threat in the Battle of the Atlantic included a hand in the sinking of four U-boats, as well as two years ashore at the co-ordinator of all the Royal Navy's anti-submarine training.

His time under fire could well be said to have started in January 1939 when he was designated as the second-in-command of the destroyer *HMS Kelly*, then under construction at the Hawthorne Leslie yard on the Tyne. Whatever revisionists may now say about its captain, Lord Louis Mountbatten, there is no argument about the professional zeal, the driving energy and the attention to

detail exhibited by this charismatic figure. Before Mountbatten's arrival on board, *Kelly* had already received the benefit of his several inventions in equipment and design, and Burnett had been deluged with letters of advice about what courses to attend and what orders to write.

Nothing was too trivial to engage Mountbatten's attention, and when *Kelly* got to sea it was Burnett's role to implement his philosophy of the "happy and efficient ship" — adopted word-for-word by Noel Coward in his celebrated captain's introductory speech to his destroyer crew in the wartime film *In Which We Serve*.

At the outbreak of war, *Kelly* was soon in action. As leader of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla, Mountbatten was in charge of seven similar destroyers and Burnett was also its flotilla anti-submarine expert. *Kelly* was operated with considerable dash and flair — some say inadvertently — and

suffered a certain amount of damage from weather, mines and collision. But she and others of her group distinguished themselves by evacuating the soldiers of "Maurice-force", including French Chasseurs Alpins, from the Norwegian port of Namsos in late April 1940 under heavy air attack from the Luftwaffe. This earned the undying grati-

tude of the force commander, the legendary eye-patched warrior, Major-General Adrien Carton de Wiart, VC.

On the night of May 10, *Kelly* was engaged with German torpedo-boats in the North Sea when she was hit amidships by a torpedo, and 27 of her crew were killed. Saved by thorough training in damage control, she was towed to Newcastle in a semi-submerged condition by the destroyer *Bulldog*. This was a feat that took more than 90 hours under repeated air attacks.

Burnett was twice mentioned in despatches during this period and his promotion to commander in January 1941 clearly expressed Mountbatten's approval. Leaving the *Kelly* in February, he was appointed to the Navy's anti-submarine school *HMS Osprey* as the chief training staff officer.

In May 1943, at the height of the Atlantic battle, he was appointed senior officer of the

Canadian Escort Group C2 in the destroyer *Gatineau*. The Royal Canadian Navy's substantial contribution to this era between the various Chinese factions and European American and Japanese interests. In this case, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forces had entered Nanking and, in the excitement, had looted the foreign consulates. A bombardment by *Emerald* restored the situation.

Thereafter Burnett followed a conventional progression of courses and promotions, enjoying the illusory sunlit pre-war world of the Mediterranean and Far East stations in which the tilting of the strategic balance away from democratic Europe towards totalitarian Italy and Germany and imperial Japan was — almost fatally for the civilised world — ignored.

Burnett was deeply involved in anti-submarine warfare and in 1934 he became an instructor. When in the destroyer *Decoy*, he took part in the ineffective Allied measures to counter Mussolini's attack on Abyssinia in 1935. More than anything, these convinced the British of the soldiers' deepened religious convictions and innate optimism about human nature. From this time, too, dated his lasting affection for Australia. New Zealand and South Africa.

Later, when in the Canadian

escort *St Catherine's*, Burnett led his group in the sinking of *U-244* which, although using acoustic torpedoes, was eventually destroyed after a 30-hour search. For this Burnett was awarded a Bar to his DSC.

In command of the destroyer *Heldmold* he shared the sinking of *U-743* with another frigate. In February 1945, when patrolling north of the Shetland Islands, Burnett's 10th Escort Group sank three U-boats in two weeks, earning him the DSO. His war service ended in the Admiralty as Assistant Director of the Anti-U-boat Division.

Philip Whitworth Burnett joined the Royal Navy at Dartmouth in 1922 and on graduation was appointed to the battleship *Royal Oak* in the Mediterranean. Transferring to the cruiser *Emerald* on the China station, he took part

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JEROME BONAPARTE

With Jerome Bonaparte passes away another of the names that connect the present generation with the great events and changes of the first quarter of the century. Of the 13 children of Carlo Bonaparte, the Corsican advocate, eight lived to rise with the "star" of Napoleon. Of these children five were sons, and the first, Jerome, was the youngest.

This name was selected for the cadet of the house, and in the French marine Jerome served through the years of the Consulate. It was in 1813, while serving on the North American station that Jerome, then only 19, met at Baltimore the daughter of an American merchant, became enamoured of the lady, and, without asking the permission of the head of the family, was married to Elizabeth Patterson. Napoleon was proclaimed Emperor in 1804, and at the date of his brother's marriage, was calculating alliances with the royal families of Europe as part of his policy. He was incensed on hearing of his brother's action.

Napoleon possessed in a high degree the faculty of judging the capacity and fitness of individuals for special service. He disliked unsuccessful men. Yet at the commencement of one of his boldest enterprises Napoleon intrusted to his brother Jerome, who was only

ON THIS DAY

June 26, 1860

Although Napoleon made the youngest of his brothers King of Westphalia, Jerome was not cast in the same mould as the Emperor. He lived, however, to see one of his nephews become Napoleon III.

nominally a soldier, a military command that would have required a Soul or a Massena to have borne with credit. It was at the beginning of the Russian campaign of 1812 that Jerome, then King of Westphalia, was placed at the head of 70,000 German troops in Poland. He proved his unftness for the post by allowing himself to be surprised at Smolensk, and the Emperor's plans were considerably deranged by the error. Jerome was immediately relieved of his command.

Some years earlier after the great and crucial Battle of Austerlitz when Napoleon's career was at his zenith the kingdom of

Westphalia was constructed and given to Jerome who had consented to the repudiation of his plebeian wife and married Princess Catherine Frederica of Wurtemberg. The Westphalian kingdom went down with the wreck of Empire and the beginning and end of Jerome's reign are almost the only events that mark its existence.

The King of Westphalia fled to Switzerland, and finally settled at Trieste. When Napoleon landed from Elba Jerome returned to France, and took part in the last struggle. He held a command in the campaign of 1815, and was present at Waterloo. Then followed the long period of reverse, which was shared by the whole family; all of the name of Bonaparte were exiled from France. With exile and dispersion came obscurity, that had almost deepened into oblivion when history again took up the fortunes of the Napoleons.

The King of Westphalia was a young man, little more than 30, at the dissolution of the Empire; he was verging towards 70 when he returned to France to resume something of his past dignity. The life of Jerome Bonaparte closed in the enjoyment of wealth and honours; but, in truth, his sun went down at noon: the few years of prosperity at the close of his career were but a faint reflex of the splendour and promise in which it began.

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Millionaires apply now to the ITC

Don't you love lists? Try this. Bob Phillips, Liz Forgan, John Tusa, Sir Norman Fowler, Sir Michael Checkland. They are all names bruited for chairman of the Independent Television Commission. The top post at the ITC falls vacant at the end of this year.

Until a year ago, the incumbent chairman, the long-serving and admired Sir George Russell, might have been expected to move over to the BBC when Marmaduke Hussey stepped down aged 73 this spring. But when in April 1995 Sir George, at 60 as covered with non-executive chairmanships as some people are with tattoos, added yet another to his collection — the Camelot Group (operators of the National Lottery) — he effectively took himself out of the running. Another millionaire, Sir Christopher Bland, himself the former deputy chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the ITC's forerunner, took the BBC crown instead.

Among candidates for the ITC chairmanship, the BBC's deputy director-general Mr Phillips heads the list. Ostensibly second in command to John Birt, Mr Phillips is the highest-ranking among those top BBC executives who were not told of the massive impending reorganisation until just before it was announced this month.

To outsiders, the amiable Mr Phillips shines as the ideal leader for what is still, in many British hearts, "the other side". He knows ITV and its discontents from the inside out. Before being plucked for the BBC, he had been managing director of the highly successful Carlton Television, although much in the shadow of his boss, Carlton's founder Michael Green, and then went on to Independent Television News.

At ITN Mr Phillips would have learnt about one of the ITC's hardest tasks to resist the plea of the regional television companies to move *News at Ten* to a less intrusive spot in the evening schedules. Just last week, at the Royal Television Society, Bruce Gyngell, of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, raised the cry once more. He called the 30-minute news programme a "strangulating corset". But the ITC is charged by Parliament with keeping an element of public service. And moving the news to 6.30pm or 11pm, marginalising it in the American manner, is not on.

But speculation is probably irrelevant. The ITC job is not big enough for Mr Phillips, aged 50. Nor, at £63,000 a year, is the pay. His BBC salary is about three times what the ITC chairman earns. Sir George has not had to think of such things. As chairman of Marley Tiles since 1989, he ranks among the highest-paid executives in Britain.

Heading the ITC is a job for someone who

is above the battle. Hence, some of the other rumoured names: John Tusa, former head of the BBC World Service, now chief executive of the Barbican; Sir Michael Checkland, former BBC Director-General; and possibly Liz Forgan, the recently departed BBC Radio managing director.

The appointment, in the gift of the Government, has been filled by a woman once before. Lady Plowden was chairman of the IBA from 1975 to 1980, and is still remembered for the brisk "Come along, Brian" with which she summoned her chief executive, Sir Brian Young. No government has yet seen fit to grace the BBC with a woman on top.

The ITC chairmanship is no sinecure. The commission must take commercial decisions which are highly controversial and subject to judicial review. Sir George has faced two court challenges. TSW took the ITC to court after losing its ITV franchise to Westcountry Television in 1992. And, more recently, the losers in the Channel 5 race fought the decision in court. To the credit of Sir George and his chief executive David Glenross, the ITC's judgments were upheld in both cases.

So now that Channels 3, 4 and 5 are set on course, there are two main tasks left at ITC. One is too easy, the other too hard. The easy one is regulating programmes for sex violence and bad language. The commission handles this well when it does general performance reviews, but it is in danger of bending over backwards to deal with pernicious complaints from very small numbers of viewers. Its monthly complaints bulletin is unnecessary.

The hard, even impossible, duty ahead concerns terrestrial digital television (DTT). Bruce Gyngell was right to say that this has no future. Satellite television will provide myriad new digital channels well before the more limited terrestrial variety gets going.

But the ITC has to go through the motions of awarding digital terrestrial franchises because Parliament has decreed it. The commission's 135-page draft *Invitation to Apply*, suggests rules that are inappropriate, specific and complex for an unknown new business. The new ITC chairman's delicate task, therefore, will be to lead the commission in choosing some digital applicants over others. Yet at the same time he or she must find a way to explain to politicians that they were out of their depth in the digital clauses of the new Broadcasting Bill. The truth is that neither the experience nor the expertise exists for the ITC to make any reasoned judgment.



BRENDA MADDOX

It's not so good for you, Bob

BT is expected to drop its television frontman, Bob Hoskins, from its advertisements — at least temporarily — because viewers outside the South East are becoming cheeched off with his cheeky London accent.

To redress the regional balance, Abbott Mead Vickers, the company's advertising agency, is said to be considering running a campaign featuring Billy Connolly, the actor and comedian best known for his coarse humour and his broad Scots.

It's good to talk, but, it seems, in a cockney accent.

Synchro scribbling

THIS year's spectacular summer of sport is clearly putting strains on the nation's over-worked sports journalists. With so many column inches

to be filled, editors are having to cast their nets far and wide to find competent writers.

None was more stretched than John Lovesey, the editor of *The Sunday Times* alphabetical pullout supplement, "1,000 Makers of Sports", who appeared to be running short of contributors by the time he reached the letter "M".

Fortunately, Lovesey had a brainwave. Who better to write the supplement's glowing tribute to the Channel swimmer Kevin Murphy than Murphy himself?

He is, after all, a journalist with Independent Radio News. It was entirely fitting that Murphy, who was the first Briton to swim the Channel both ways, should open his entry with the words: "In 1970 a respected journalist wrote of Kevin Murphy: There is about him a terrible resolve."

And who might this revered journalist be? Why, John Lovesey, of course!

Queen's new title

ATTEMPTS by American broadcasters to woo Chris-



Is BT about to replace Bob Hoskins with Billy Connolly?

tianne Amanpour, undisputed Queen of the Sarajevo media corps, away from CNN have failed. Well, almost failed. After months of offer and counter-offer, during which seven-figure sums were bandied about, Amanpour, who is considered one of the toughest cookies on the war scene, has landed herself a dream deal that must make her one of the hottest properties on the international news circuit.

She will continue working with CNN, but with the fancy title of "chief international correspondent". In addition,

her contract will enable her to contribute at least five pieces a year to CBS's much respected *60 Minutes*, the grandaddy of all US news magazine programmes.

While it may be pushing a bit for Britain to claim credit for Amanpour's success, she was born in London and did get one of her first breaks on *The World Tonight*.

IN DEATH as in life, Andreas Papandreou, the former Greek Prime Minister, maintained his ability to confound the press. On Sunday, the day

he died, The Observer was confidently assuring its readers that the veteran socialist "is still a force to be reckoned with".

Pet project

EVER bent on their efforts to distinguish their products from their rivals, the marketing people at Pedigree, the pet-food company, have taken to sending birthday greetings to their customers' dogs and cats. Lucky hounds and pussies who eat Sheba and Caesars from the Pedigree range will receive, on their special day — if their owner has played ball — a card from the company featuring a picture of a dog or a cat.

Michael Jenkins, Pedigree's PR manager, sheepishly explains that the cards are designed to give a friendly touch to the company's direct-marketing plan.

He says: "We find that it is very beneficial to have an interactive relationship with our customers. We can communicate about our products and build a one-to-one relationship with them."

Campaign to rehabilitate beef begins



The beef industry fights back

THE BEEF industry is bravely putting its head above the parapet this week and mounting its first advertising campaign since the BSE scare gripped the nation three months ago. Starting with a toe-in-the-water press campaign by BMP DDB tomorrow, it will develop into a bolder national TV blitz next week followed by posters.

Exhaustive research has shown that most consumer worries focus on mince, so the posters and press work, across all national newspapers, is specifically tailored to address this.

The TV campaign consists of a 30-second ad which was initially scheduled for March but had to be put back because the scare over the link between BSE and British beef broke just two days before the ad was due to go out.

ST LUKE's, the groovy agency which has introduced West Coast advertising practices here in the form of virtual offices and hot-desking (otherwise known as working from home), is now pioneering "method advertising" — an approach to pitching for business and creating ads which involves total immersion in the brand. The agency already tested this when

it competed, successfully, for Ikea in March by sending staff to work in the store for a few days; now it is fighting for the £6 million Parkworld account.

Preparations have involved away days at Butlins in Bognor and stays at Haven Holiday Centres where St



BELINDA ARCHER

Luke's acolytes have been spotted donning giant Elvis wigs, playing bingo and entering excruciating karaoke competitions. "We go along and get really involved in what the client does and what the customer is like. That makes the advertising much truer to the brand," says one enthusiast.

ast. Whether Parkworld will be impressed remains to be seen.

EURO 96 is proving a challenge not only for footballers but also for advertising agencies, eager to achieve "stand-out" for their clients among the glut of commercial messages.

Pedestrian 30-second TV spots and predictable perimeter ads are being tossed aside in favour of an array of novel stunts, dubbed "ambient media", by outdoor specialists Concord who have dreamt up many of the ideas.

These include the branding of the entire Wembley Central Tube station by Snickers, and Mastercard mooring an airship above Wembley, as well as sneaking logos onto microphones which are shoved into Terry Venables' interviews alongside the regular TV reporters' mike. Even Nike has mounted a giant banner on a building adjacent to the Manchester venue.

Concord estimates that at least £2 million has been invested in alternative media for Euro 96, but the value of the TV exposure they are securing is incalculable. Sources say the more traditional sponsors and advertisers are considering official complaints.

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